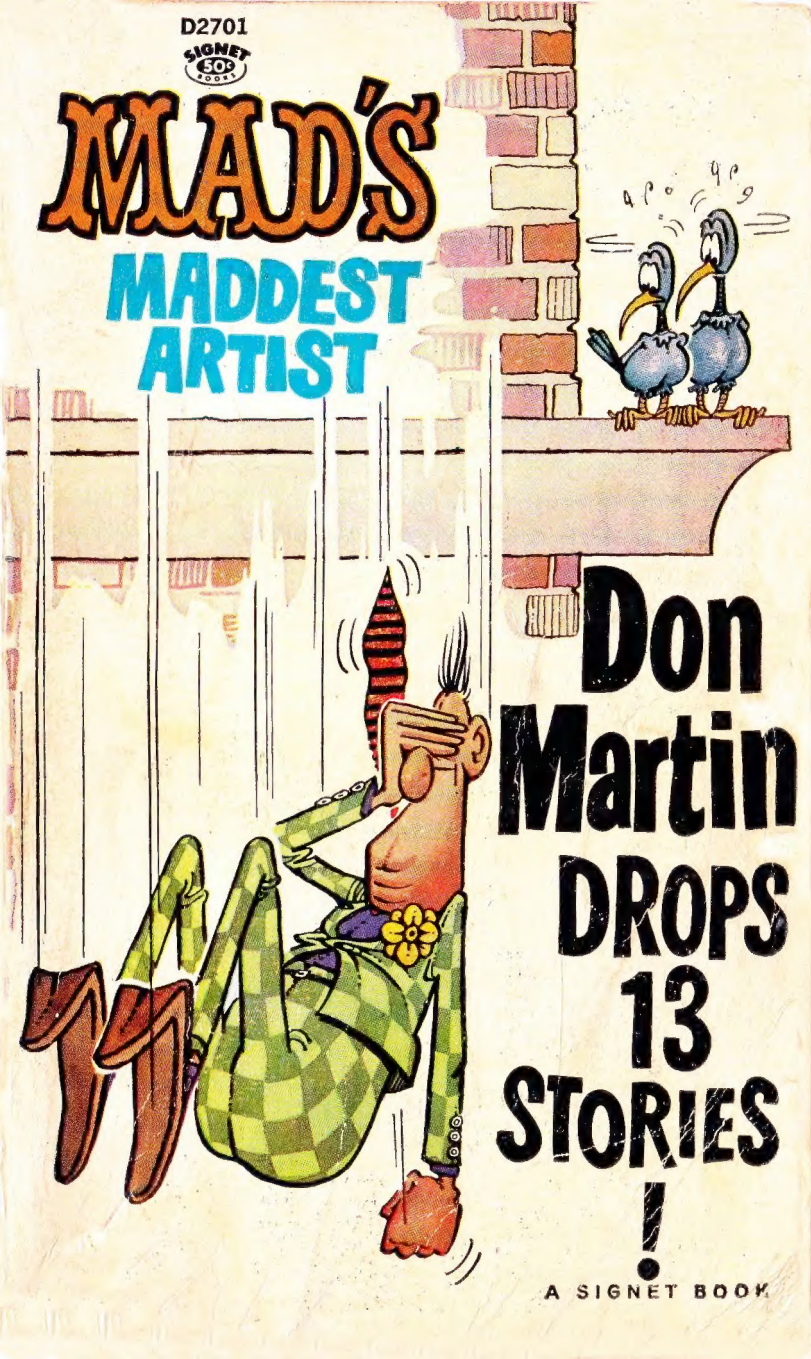
D2701

SIGNET 50¢ BOOKS

# MAD'S MADDEST ARTIST

# Don Martin DROPS 13 STORIES!



A SIGNET BOOK

# Don Martin DROPS 13 STORIES !

WRITTEN
AND
DRAWN
by
DON MARTIN

"THE LETTER" and "MOSQUITOES" written by
Don Martin and E. Solomon Rosenblum

A SIGNET BOOK

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# FEELING JUMPY?

Try yelling "GERONIMOOOOOOOO

...and then dive right into these pages...as MAD'S Maddest Artist...

# DON MARTIN DROPS 13 STORIES

...just for your amusement!

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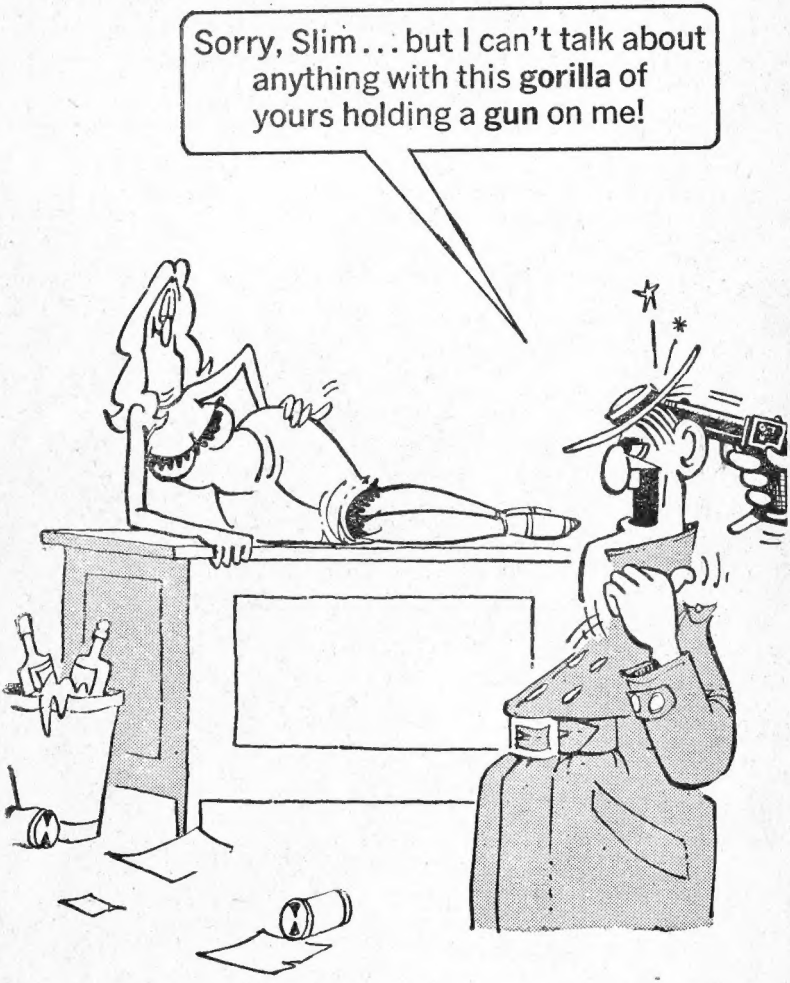
**Hello,** rugged and handsome! I hope you're not offended at my **barging** in like this— but I hear **danger** is your business and I have a little **proposition** to talk over with you!


Sorry, Slim . . . but I can't talk about anything with this **gorilla** of yours holding a **gun** on me!

FESTER BESTERTESTER

In a Story of

MYSTERY and INTRIGUE

# "THE LETTER"

Monday morning . . . A lousy Monday morning like all the others . . . the stench of crime still hangs in the air . . . the people sleep, unknowing of the cesspool of vice and corruption that stalks them by night!
But **one** man knows . . . **Our** man . . .
**Fester Bestertester! Tough private eye!!**
**Champion of TRUTH, DECENCY,**
and the **AMERICAN WAY!!**

You better think it over and think **fast,** Bestertester . . . my boys play **pretty rough!**

ONESIES!
TWOSIES!
ONESIES!
TWOSIES!
THOOK
ZAK
SPLAK
KWOP

**Please!!** His name's **Monty** and he doesn't like being called a **gorilla!** He's **sensitive**... something about his childhood.
Oot-greet.

My name is Lauren Lipschitz. My father happens to be **J. C. Lipschitz**—perhaps you've **heard** of him. There's a certain **letter** Daddy wants to get and he's willing to pay an **extremely high price** for it.
No dice, baby!

Yeah? Well, I've got a couple of pretty tough babies myself waiting right outside the door.

MOTHER

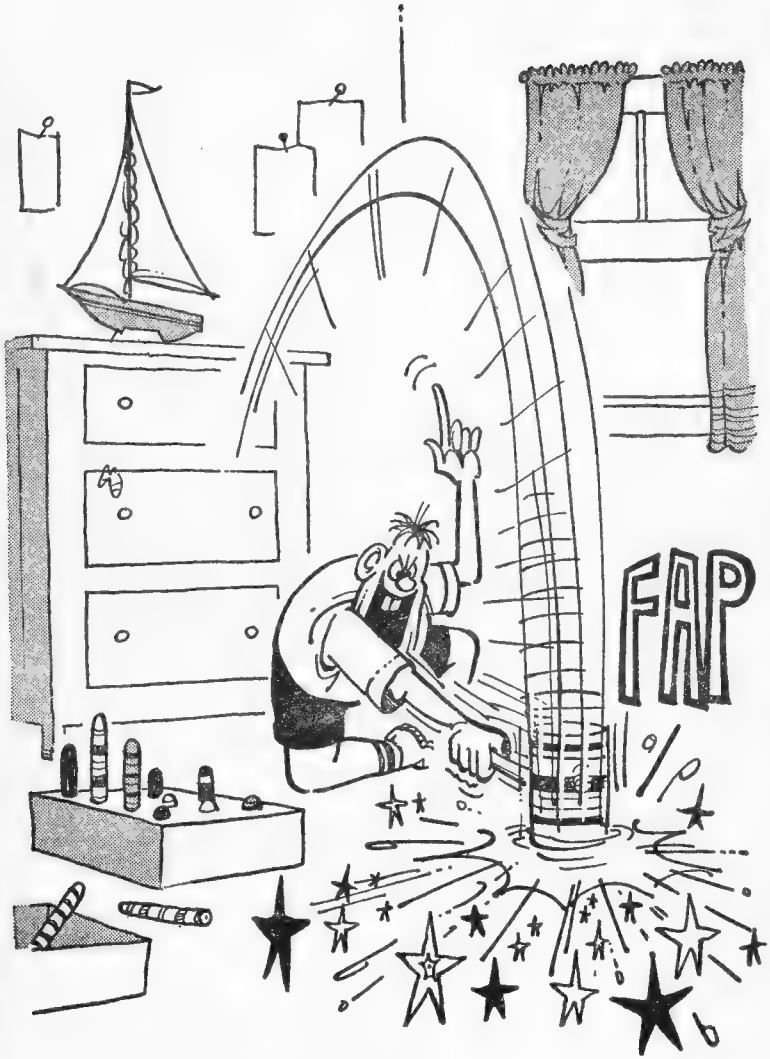
Monty . . . perhaps you had better use a little **persuasion** on our friend!
ook-ook! eek-eek!
WINK BLINK

WHAP

BEYOOP

BEYoop

BEYOOP
HAMMER AND PEG SET


FAP

BEYOOP

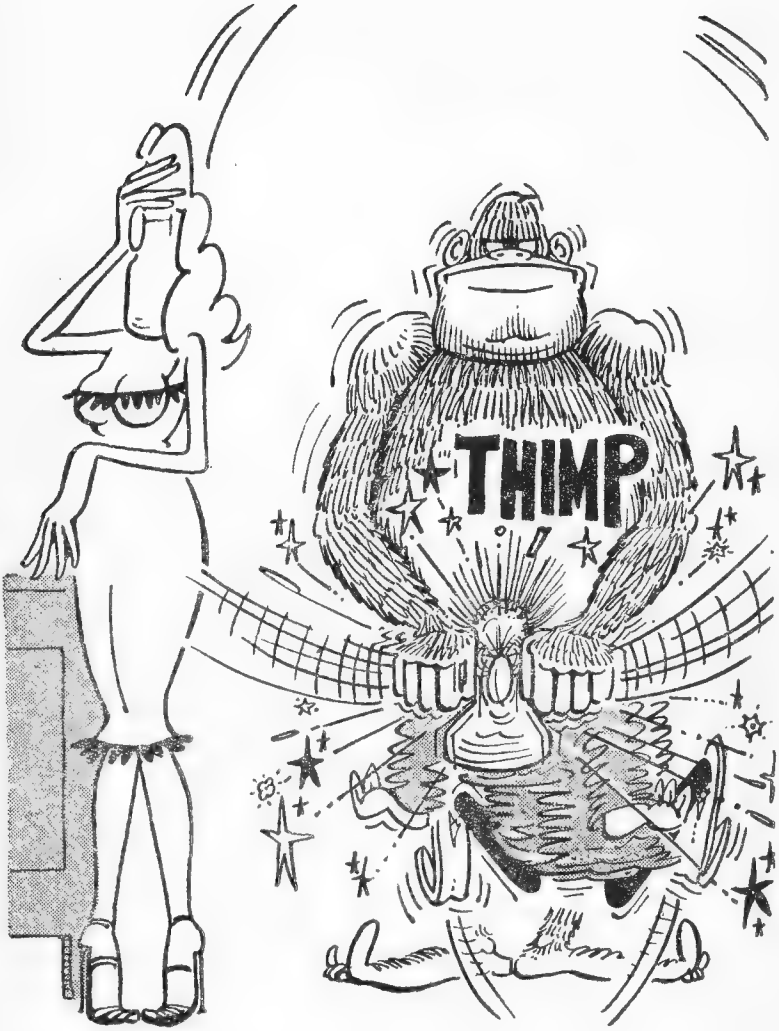
BWEEEP

Well, we can't get him out of here looking like **this,** Monty . . . fix him up a little, will you?
Ook!

SKREE-SKRAW
SKREE-SKRAW
SKREE-SKRAW

There! That does it!

GREEEEK!


THIMP

I guess you finally fixed him, Monty... let's get him out of here.
Oogle-glit.

BEYOOP

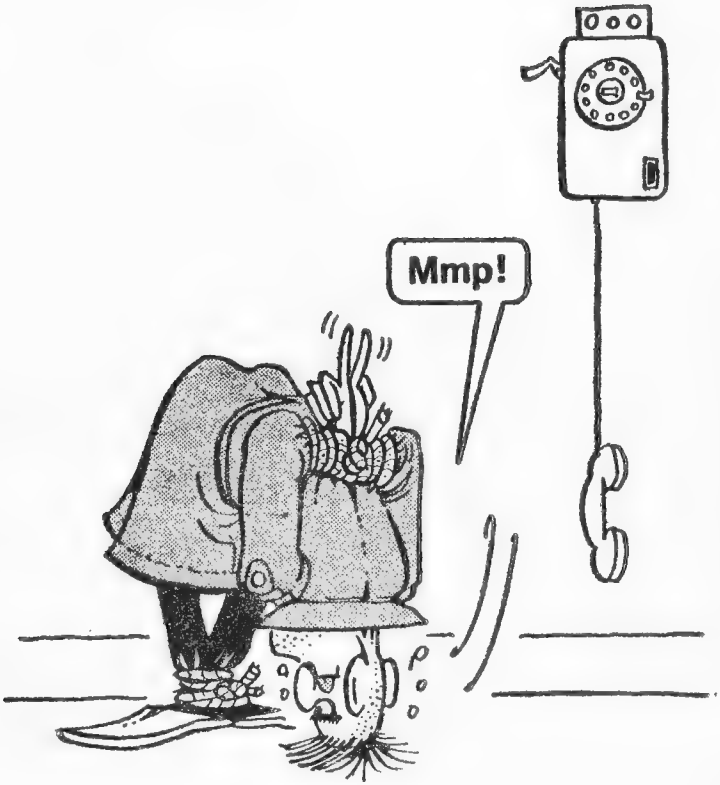
# LATER

Ohh! My **head!** Feels like I was **whacked** with a gun butt . . . a **bump** rose seven feet through a **hole** in the ceiling and was **whacked** back down with a **wooden mallet.** My **nose** and **ears** feel like they've been unmercifully manhandled by an **ape** and my **backbone** feels like it grew a **tail!** Ever have that feeling?

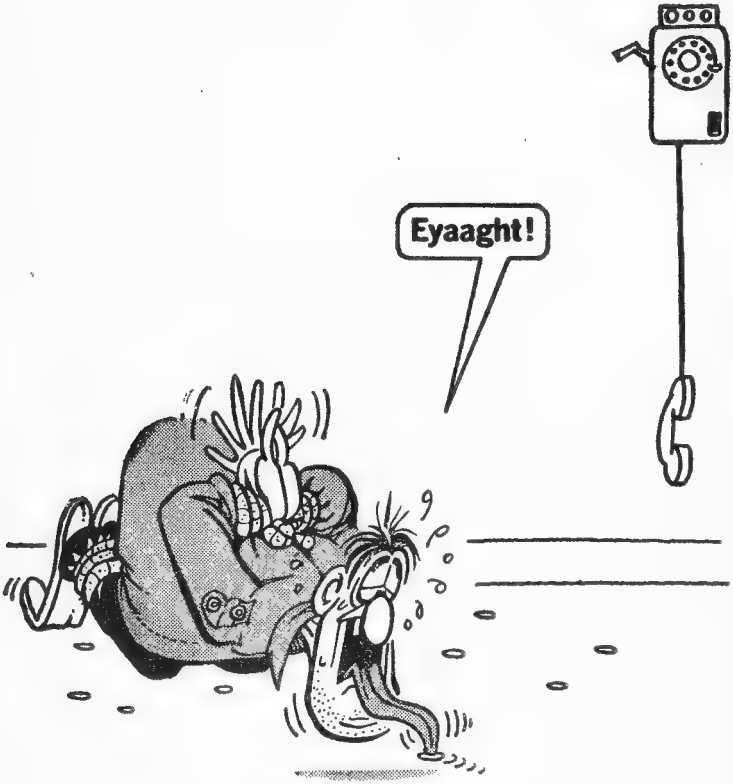
AHA! A phone!! My only chance to get out of this mess!

I've got to . . . agh . . . ugh . . .
make it to that phone . . . mmp!

Agh!


Mmp!

UMP
BUMP
THUMP
INKLE
KLINK
TINK
BINK


Eyaaght!

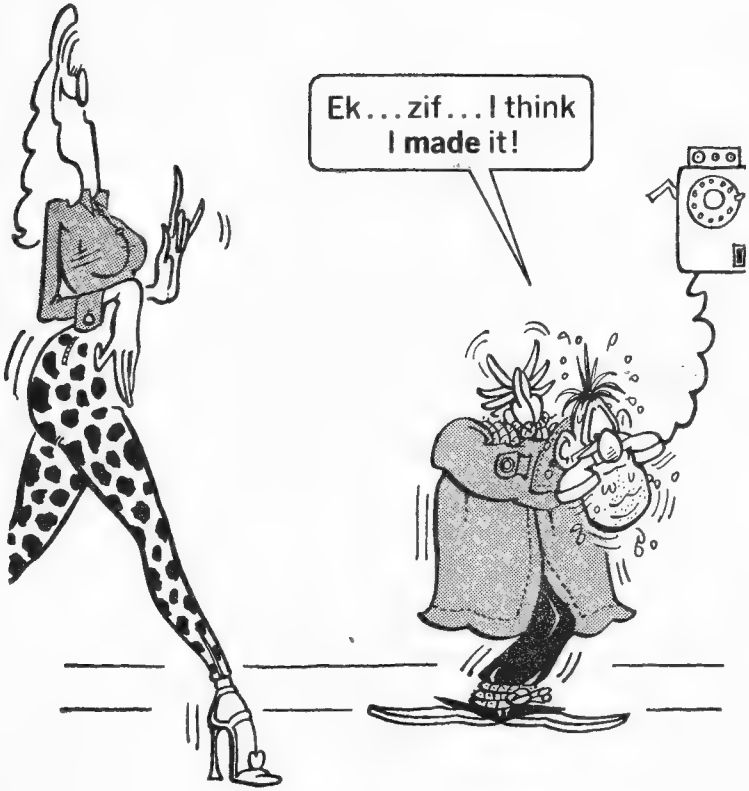
Ech...gecht!
THUMP
UMP!

—olt!
GING!

Ech...irk!

ZZZICK

ZICKAZICKAZICKAZICKAZICKAZI(


Ek . . . zif . . . I think
I made it!

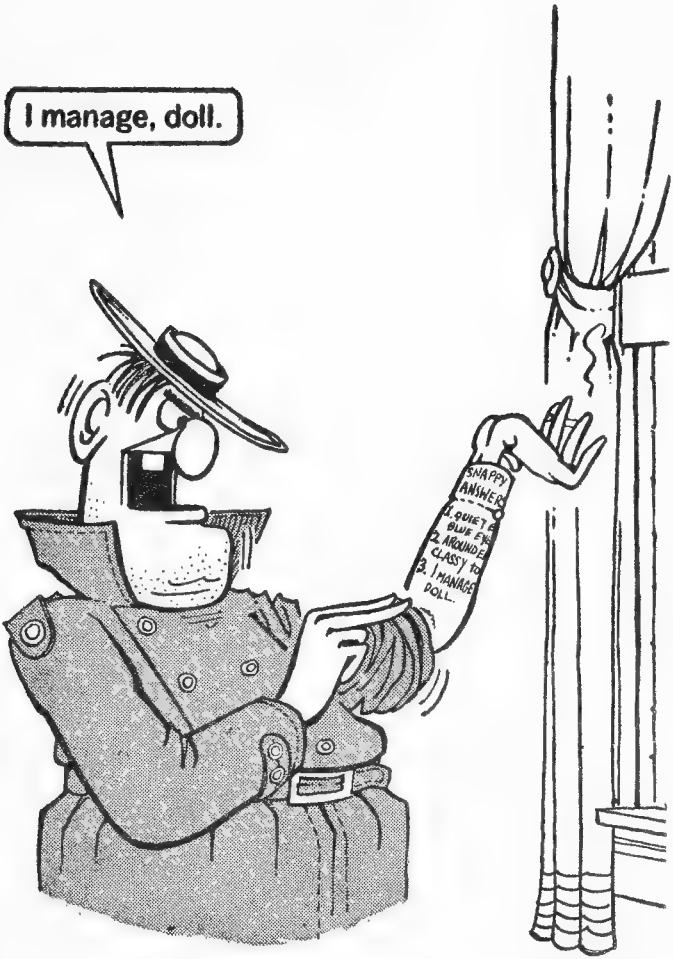
Whew!...Hello, **operator?!?**
Get me the **police!!**

You can dial that number direct, sir . . .
redeposit the coin and dial—
1-907-085-9899-6072.

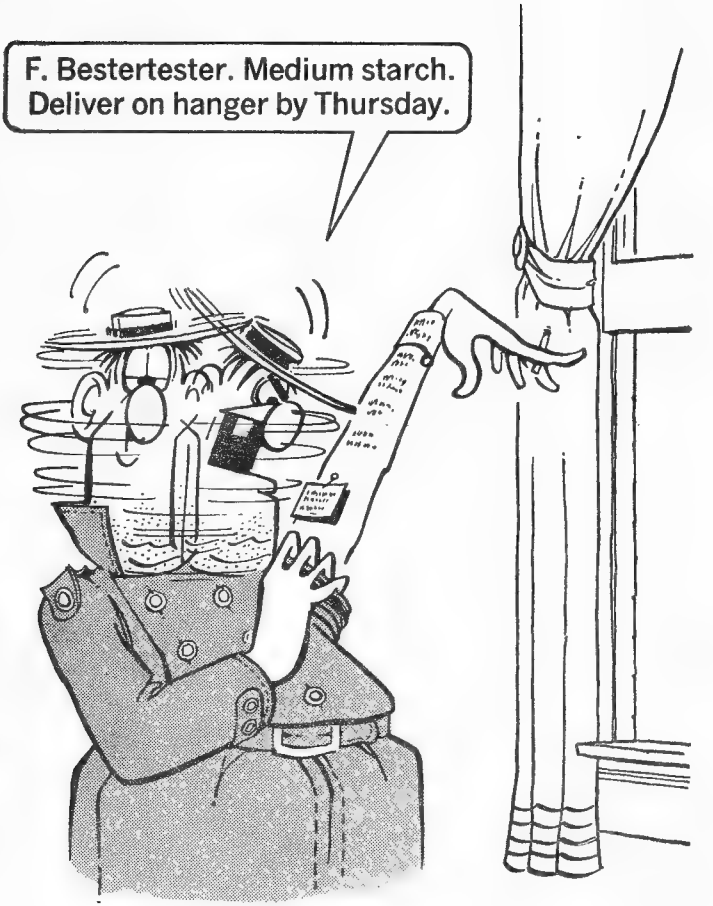
I couldn't **stand** to see you suffer like that, Bestertester . . . I like your kind . . . you're the quiet type.
Quiet enough, blue eyes.

Mmm . . . and **clever** too! I guess you've been **around!**
CLINK
Around enough, classy tomato.

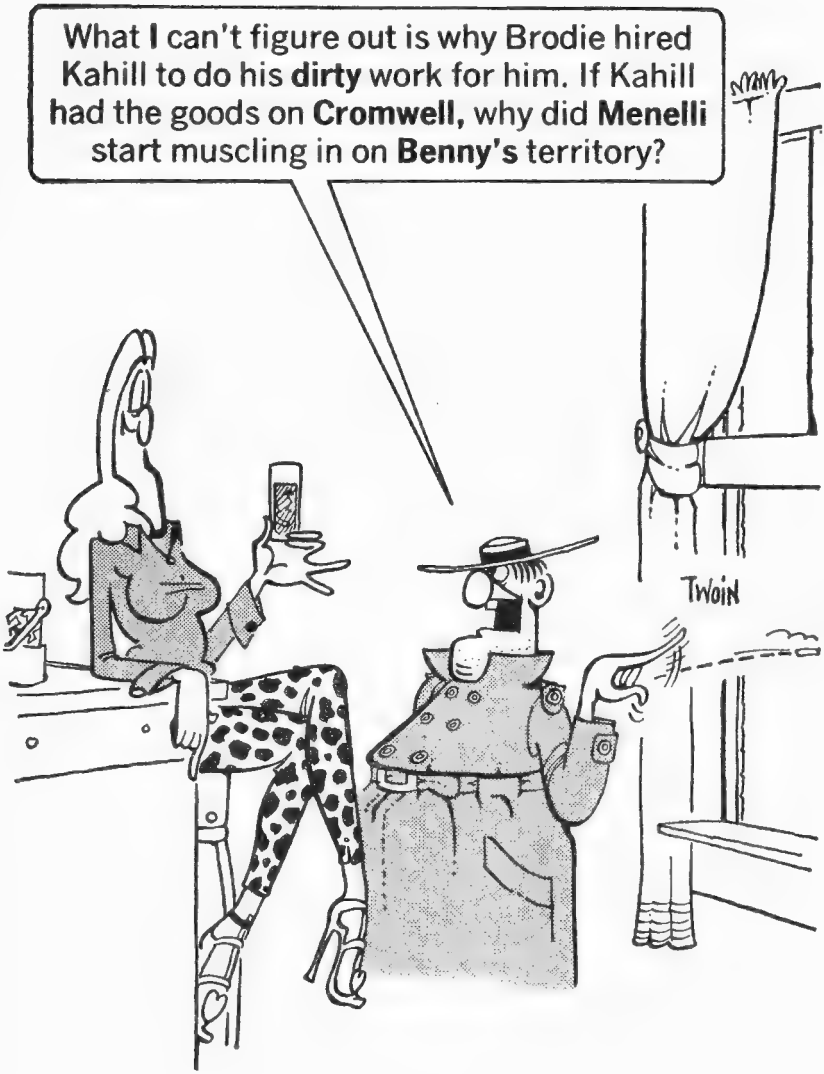
**Say!** You really **are** quite clever! How do you manage all those snappy, off the cuff answers?


I manage, doll.
SNAPPY ANSWERS
1. QUIET
BLUE EY
2. AROUND
CLASSY TO
3. I MANAGE
DOLL.

Oooh! **Stop it honey!** You're tearing me to **pieces!!** One more of those witty remarks and I'll be **yours, body and soul!** What have you got to **say** to **that?!?**

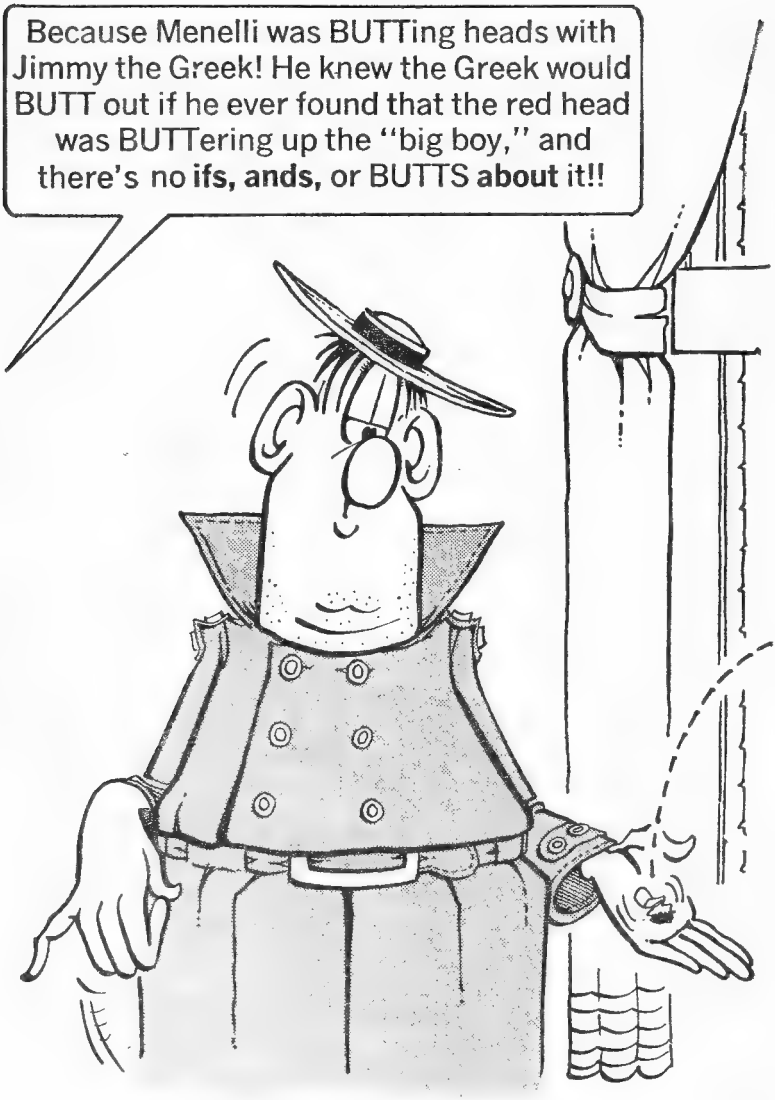

F. Bestertester. Medium starch.
Deliver on hanger by Thursday.

All right, beautiful, let's cut out the cute stuff and get down to cases. I know you want me to get the letter for you but I **also** know that Brodie was working for the **"big boy"** at the same time that Menelli **left town!**


What I can't figure out is why Brodie hired Kahill to do his dirty work for him. If Kahill had the goods on Cromwell, why did Menelli start muscling in on Benny's territory?
TWAIN

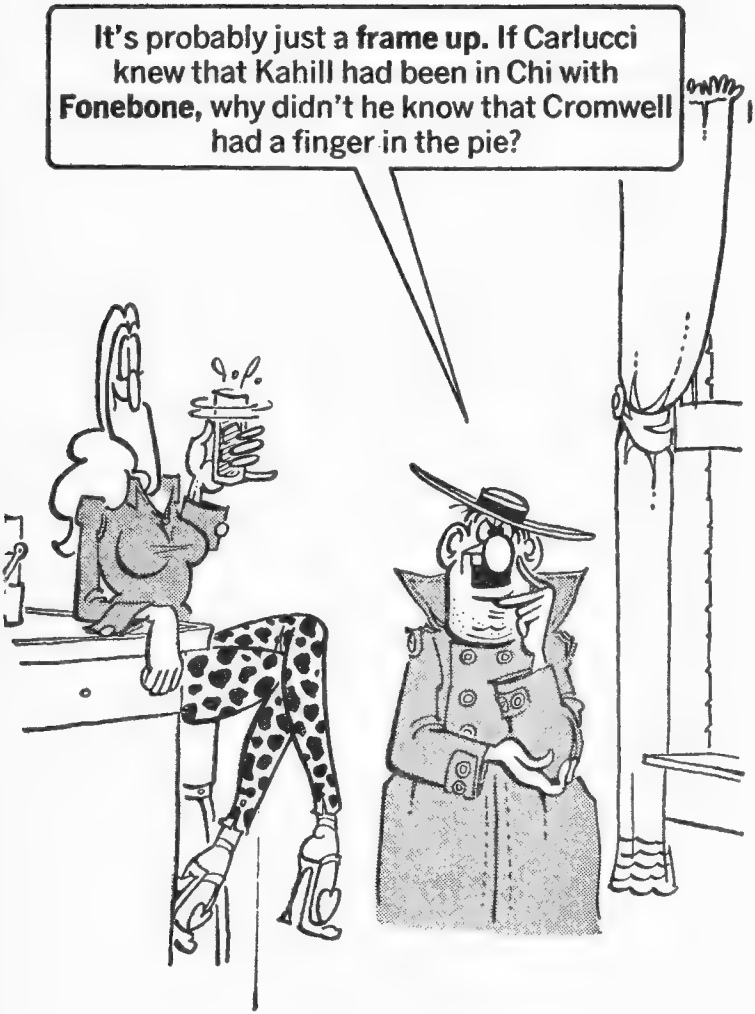
Because Benny knew that Jimmy the Greek was in for half of Brodie's stakes! Naturally that's where the little redhead comes in.
TSIT

But then why would "the fat man" raise all the stink about the letter? If he was afraid Kahill would bankroll **Glick,** why did he contact **Cromwell?**
TWANG

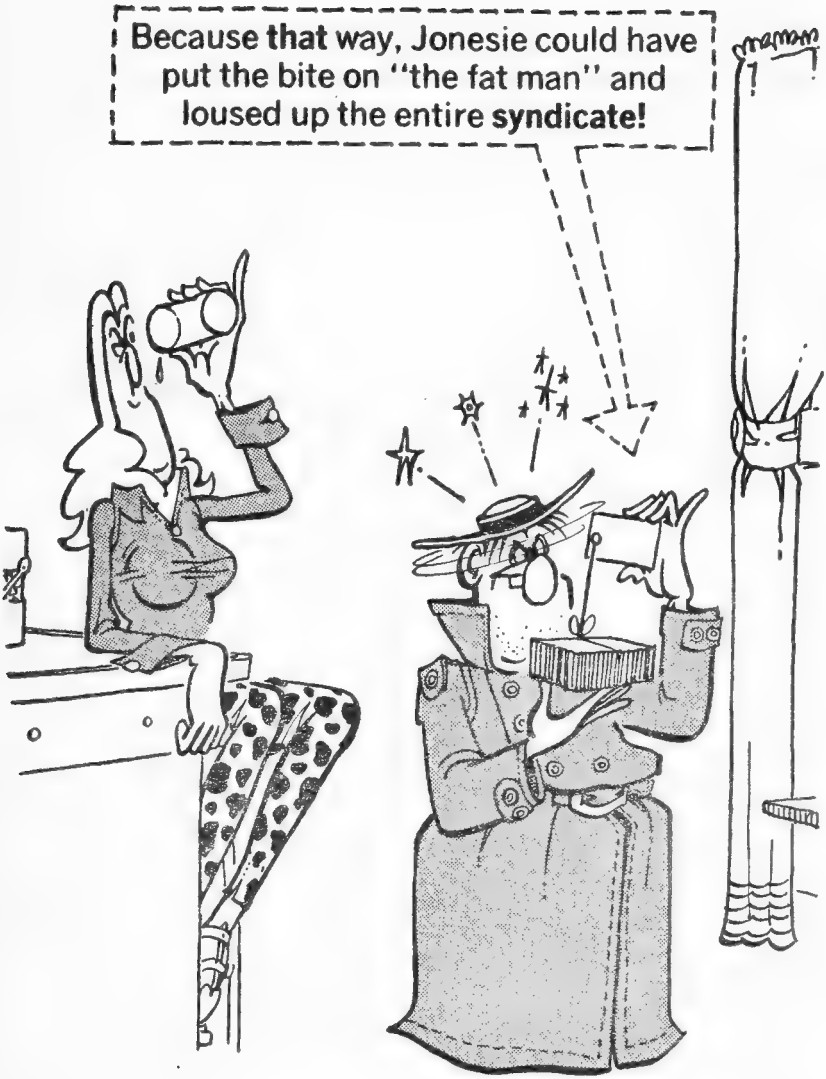

Because Menelli was BUTTing heads with Jimmy the Greek! He knew the Greek would BUTT out if he ever found that the red head was BUTTering up the "big boy," and there's no **ifs, ands,** or BUTTS **about** it!!

Well, all I know is there's something **fishy** about all this but it hasn't hit me yet.

SPLAP


It's probably just a **frame up.** If Carlucci knew that Kahill had been in Chi with **Fonebone,** why didn't he know that Cromwell had a finger in the pie?

TONG


Because **that** way, Jonesie could have put the bite on "the fat man" and loused up the entire **syndicate!**

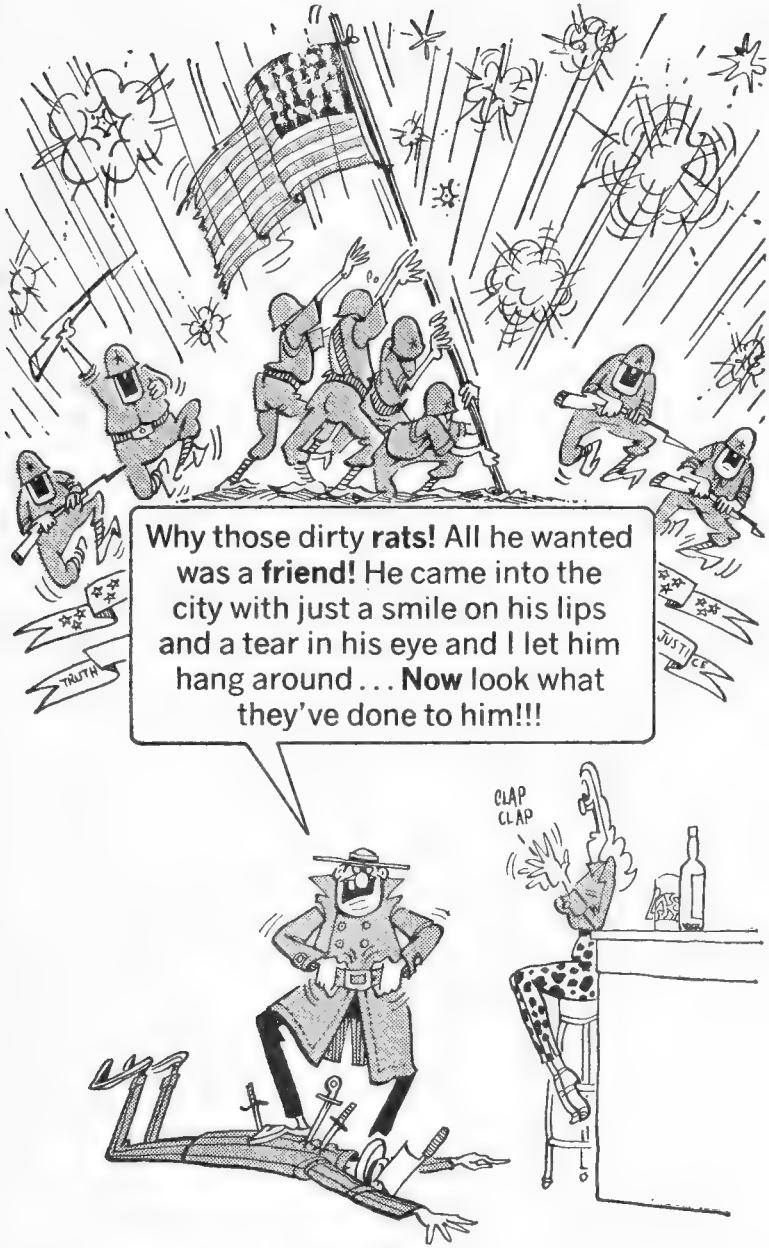
In other words, Dee-Dee isn't really Cromwell's niece after all! But where do you fit in? If Brodie knew Menelli was gunning for him, why didn't the "big boy" just spill the beans?!?

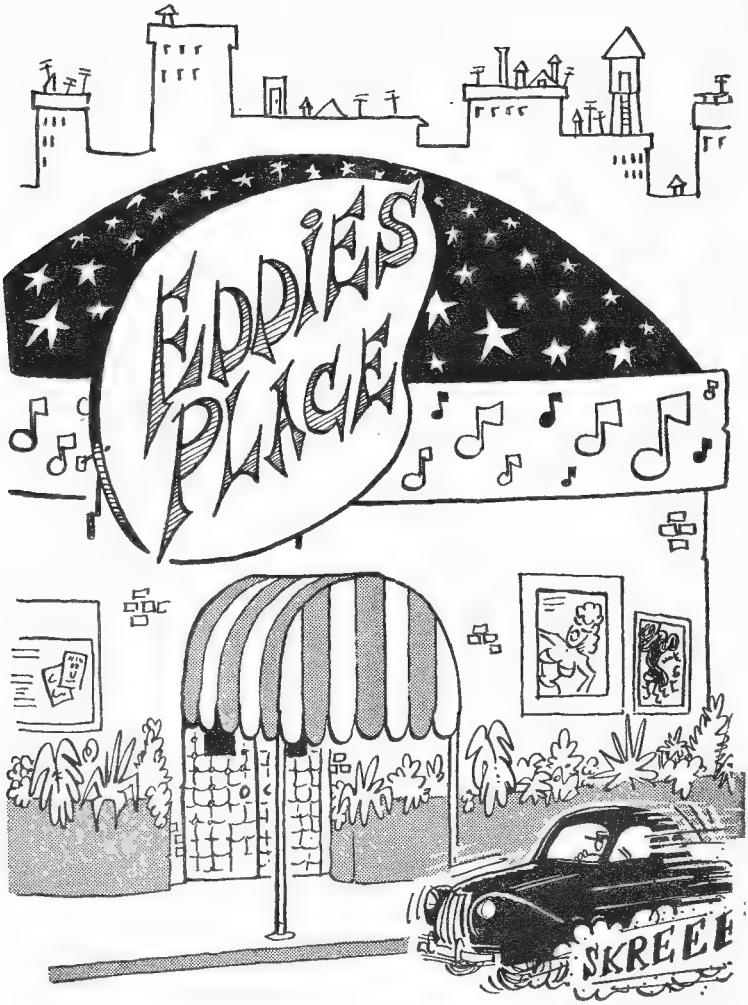
You've asked enough questions for today, bright boy . . . Here's your final answer!

POP!
TWONG..
BECAUSE, WHAT MENELLI DIDN'T KNOW, WAS THAT BRODIE BLEW THE ENTIRE FIFTY GRAND!
AND NOT ONLY THAT...

Ack...Gack...Mr. Bestertester!!!
Why, it's Frankie, the kid!!

Gasp . . . kapf . . . "the fat man" . . . choke retch . . . Eddie's Place . . . flak . . . gak . . . the letter . . . aaarrgh!


Why those dirty **rats!** All he wanted was a **friend!** He came into the city with just a smile on his lips and a tear in his eye and I let him hang around . . . **Now** look what they've done to him!!!
TRUTH
JUSTICE
CLAP CLAP


EDDIE'S PLACE
SKREEE

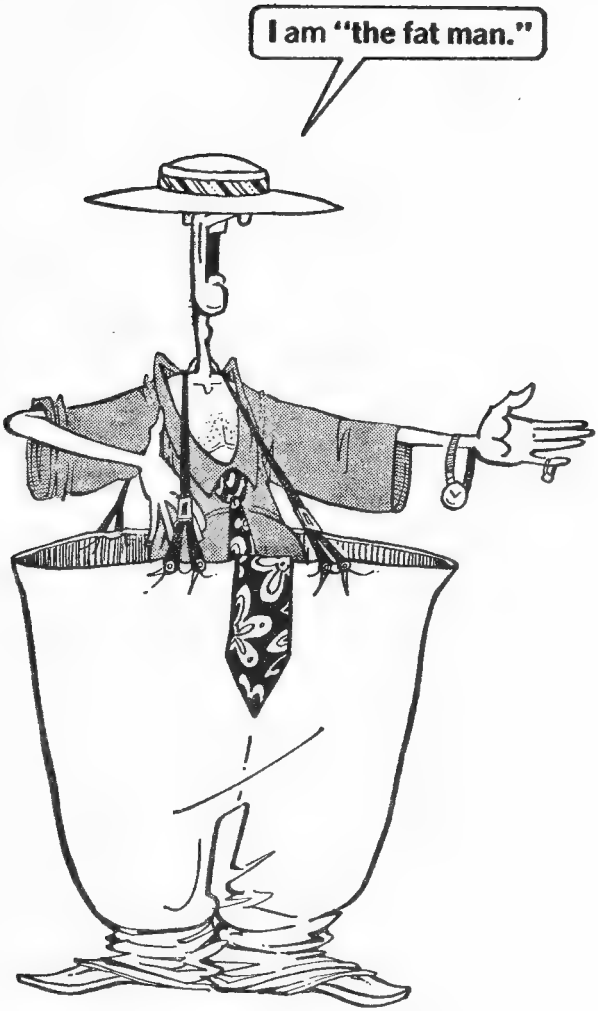
The name's **Bestertester,** friend!! **Fester** Bestertester!! Tell **"the fat man"** I want to see him!!!

I'm sorry but "the fat man" is in his steambath and cannot be disturbed. However, you are cordially invited to have a special drink of the house while you wait.

# TEN HOURS LATER

**Listen,** pal! Are you trying to tell me "the fat man" is still in his **steambath?!?** What do you take me for, some kind of **idiot?!?** **NOBODY** stays in a steambath **that** long!!

I must apologize for my delay, Mr. Bestertester,
But I find lengthy steambaths quite
necessary in adding a touch of grace and
refinement to an otherwise mundane existence.
Permit me to introduce myself, sir.....


I am "the fat man."

**Won Hung!** Mr. Bestertester is our . . . **SPECIAL** . . . guest tonight, therefore I think it would be in **"good taste"** to fix him our . . . **SPECIAL** . . . drink of the house!
WINK
WINK

I've already given him a number of... SPECIAL... drinks, boss. You want I should give him.. THE ... SPECIAL drink?!?
Precisely, Won Hung! A Very SPECIAL drink for our... SPECIAL ... friend!!
WINK WINKITY WINK-BLINK
WINK WINK BLINK-BLANK

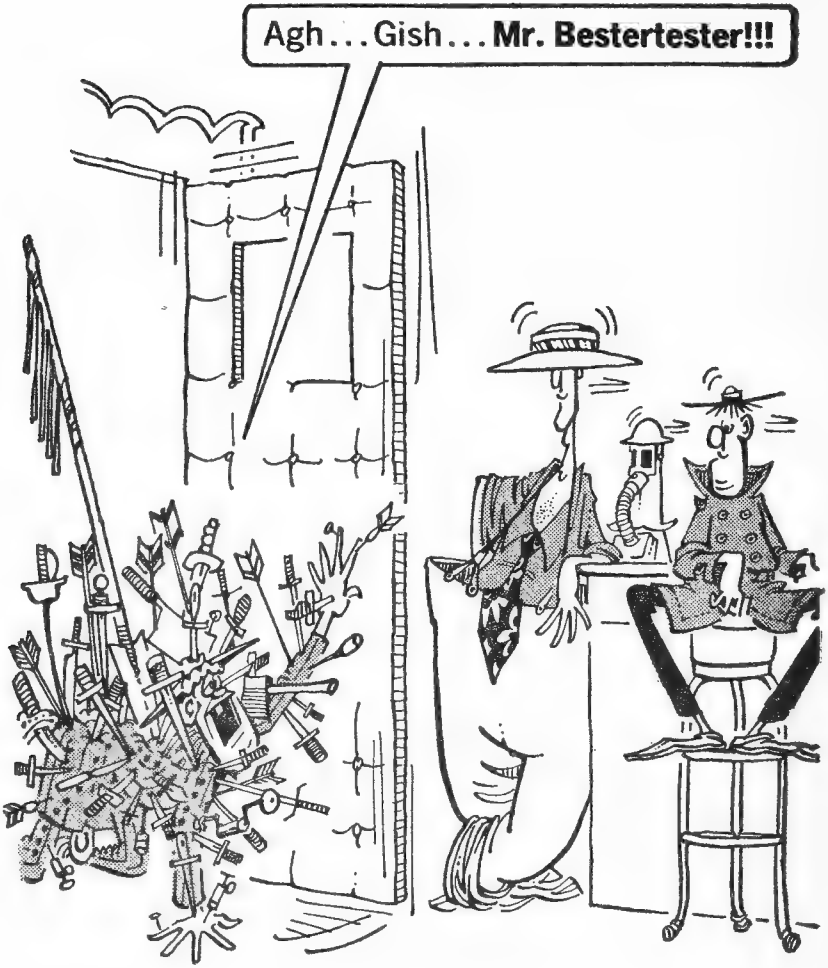
Here you are, sir . . . the special drink of the house, compliments of "the fat man."
Come, drink it down, my boy!
Well, all right.
FITZ
POPPLE
SKRAK

GLUK

REW
POING
FWEE
RIP
GOINT

Pardon me, handsome...
have you got a light?

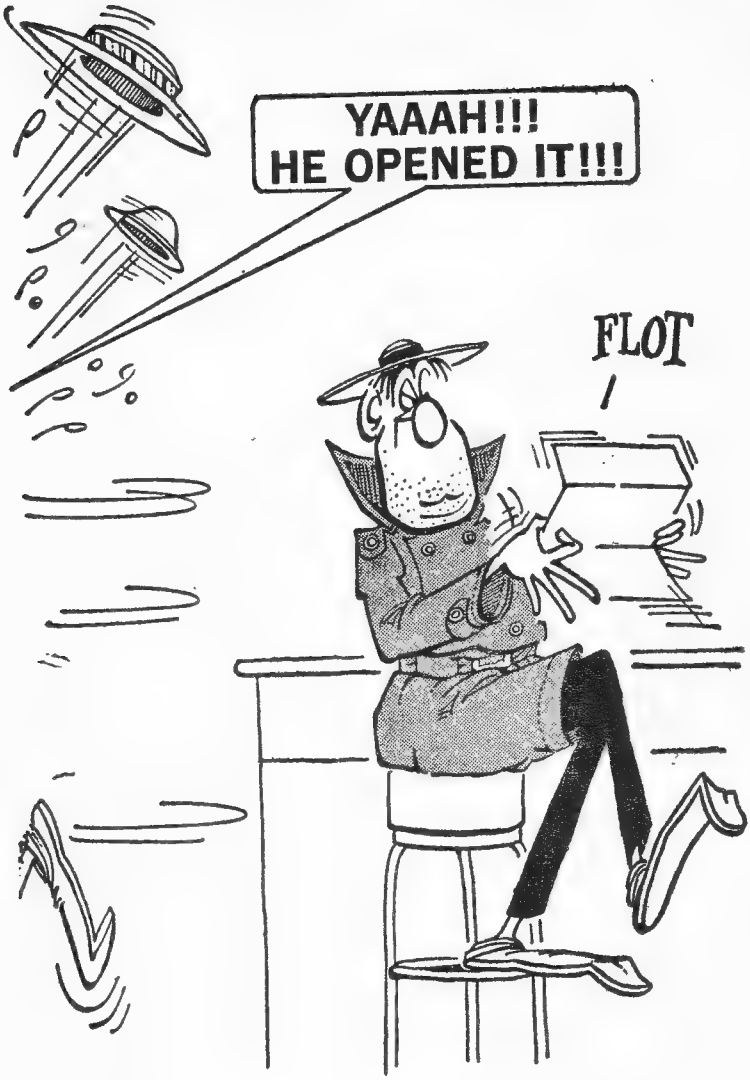
Here!

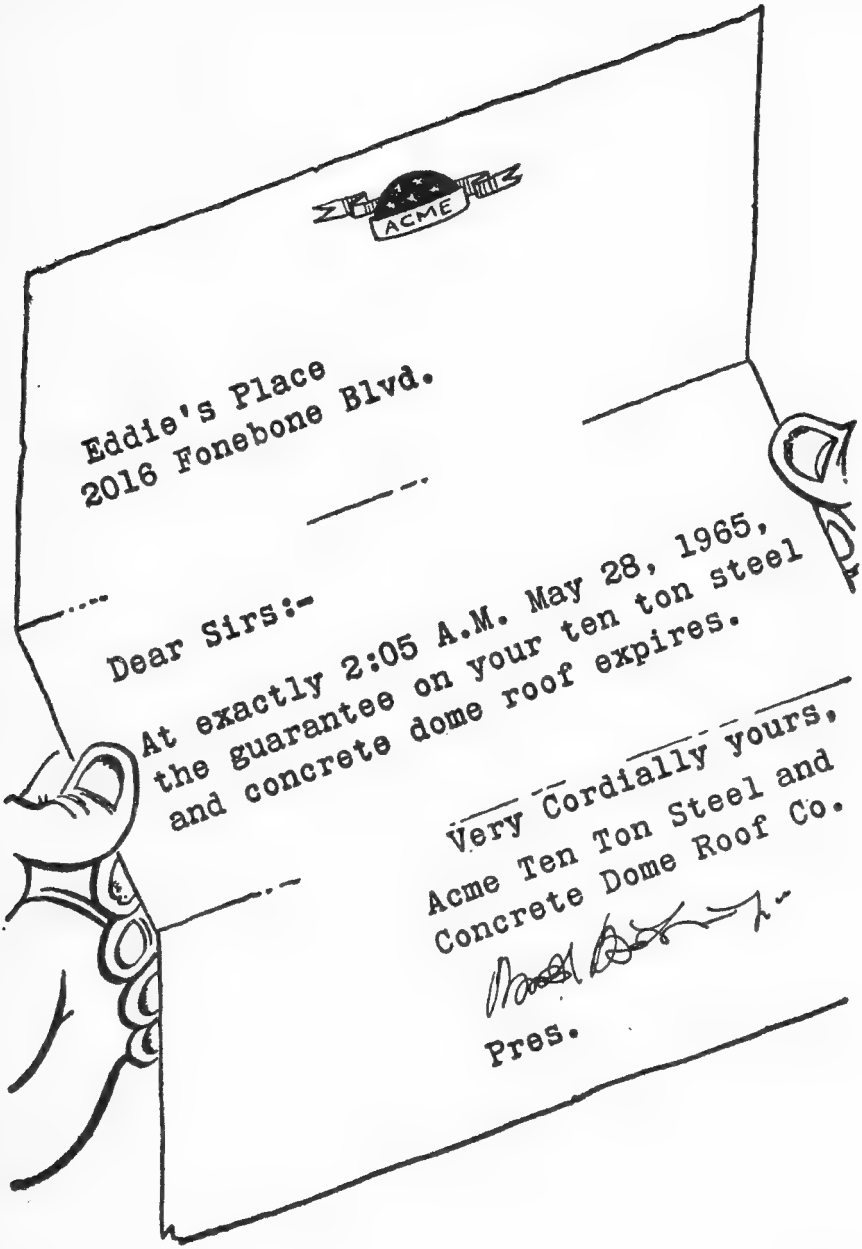

Agh . . . Gish . . . Mr. Bestertester!!!

Gasp . . . Gag . . . The letter!!!

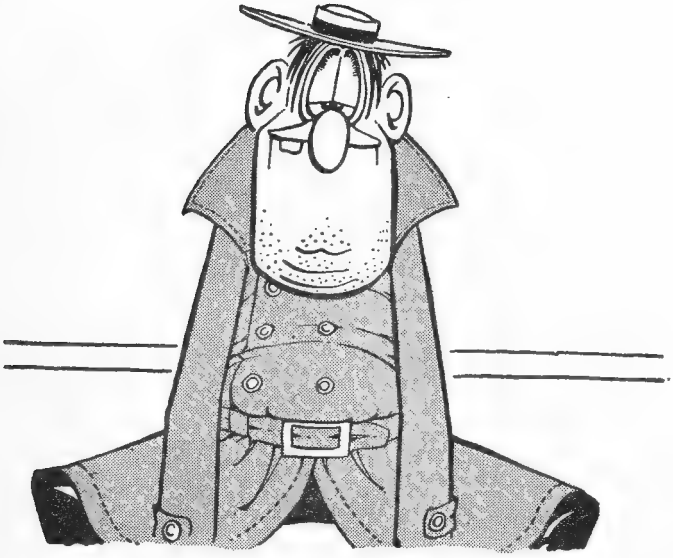
Bestertester!! You had better not open that letter!!
FLOP.

I'm attempting to reason with you, sir...
DON'T OPEN THAT LETTER!!!
You better do as he says, friend... DON'T OPEN IT!!!
SKIZIT


YAAAH!!!
HE OPENED IT!!!
FLOT


ACME
Eddie's Place
2016 Fonebone Blvd.
Dear Sirs:-
At exactly 2:05 A.M. May 28, 1965,
the guarantee on your ten ton steel
and concrete dome roof expires.
Very Cordially yours,
Acme Ten Ton Steel and
Concrete Dome Roof Co.
Pres.

KKKKKKCHK



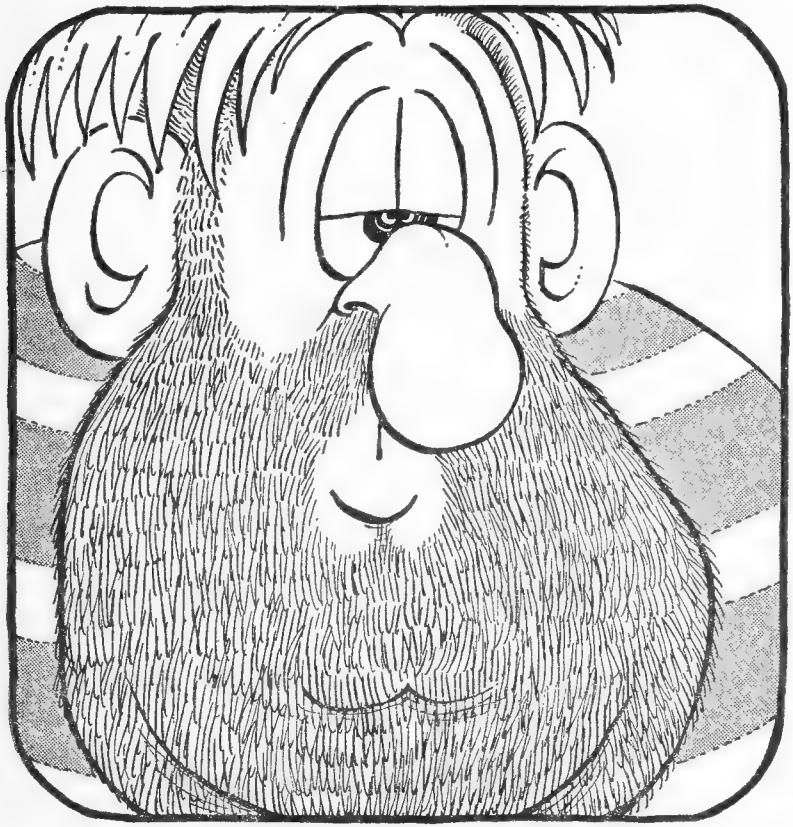
FLOON
-BRUGA- BRUGA-BRUGA-

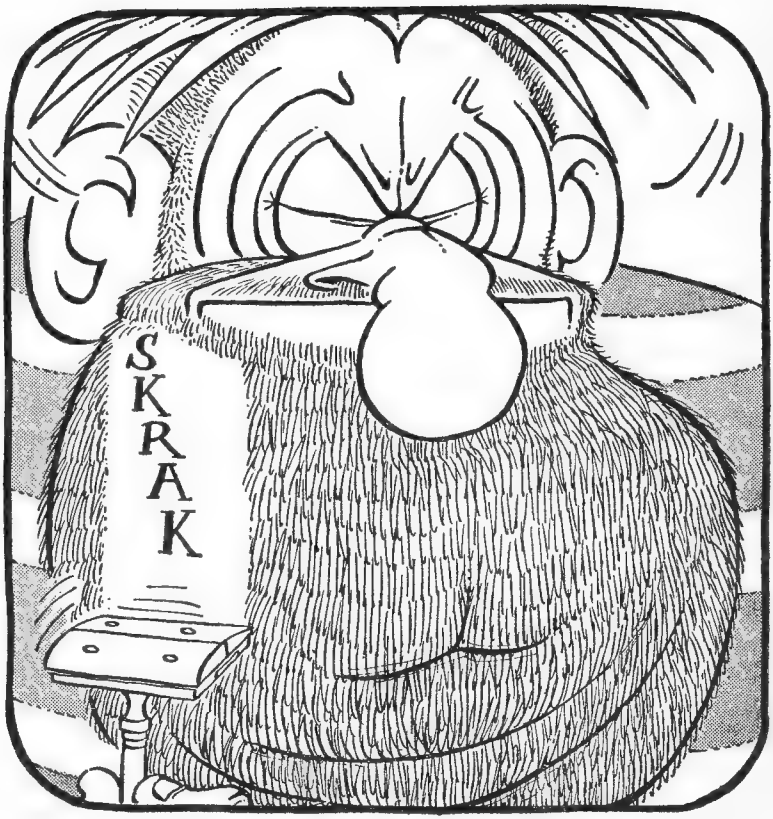
KLANG

# A SHORT COMMERCIAL

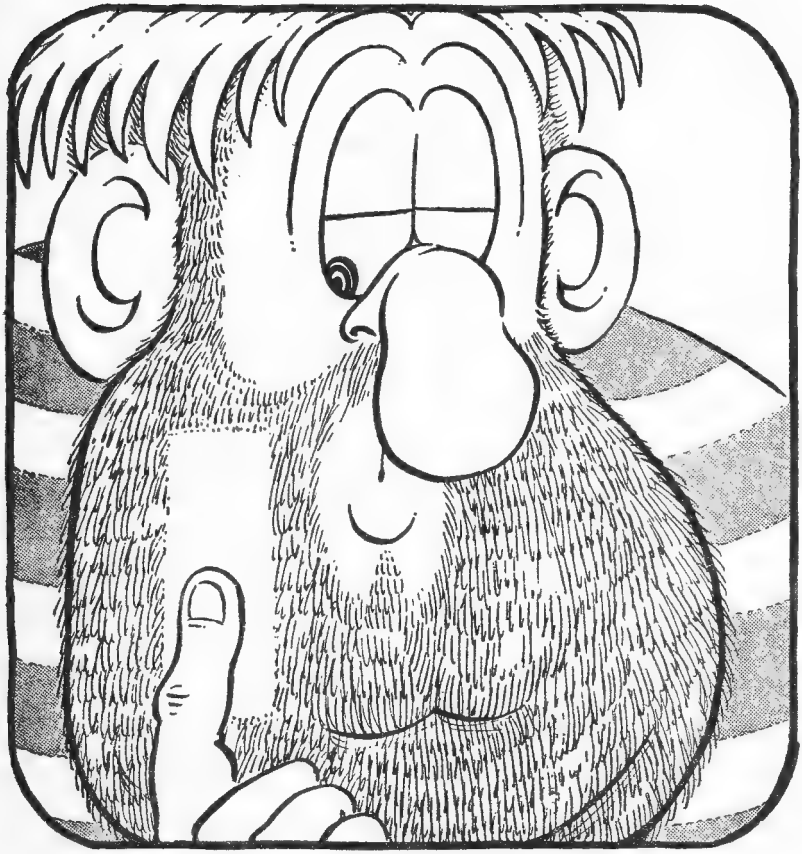
**Hi** folks! This is **Art Freen** once again, with the **"tough beard of the day"** demonstration . . . done right here on **the streets of New York.**

**As you can see, we've again chosen the toughest, thickest, most bristly beard we could find . . . and we will again show you how the amazing MICRO-GLINT razor can shave these whiskers without ANY lather . . . and without ANY water!**

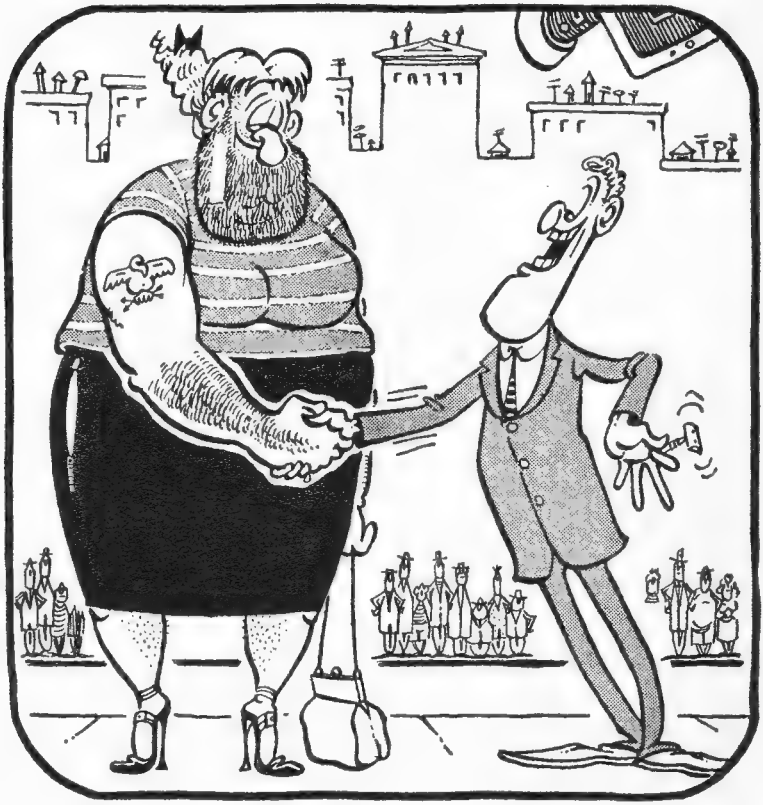



SKRAK

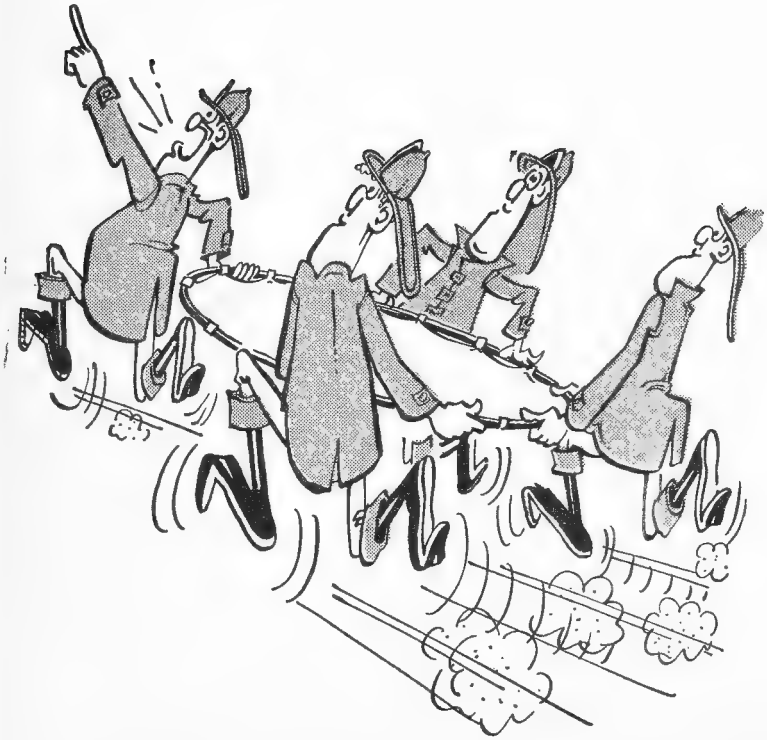
And there you **have** it, folks! The toughest beard of the day, **whisked** off as easy as **shaving a peach** with but ONE swipe of this **fantastic** razor!

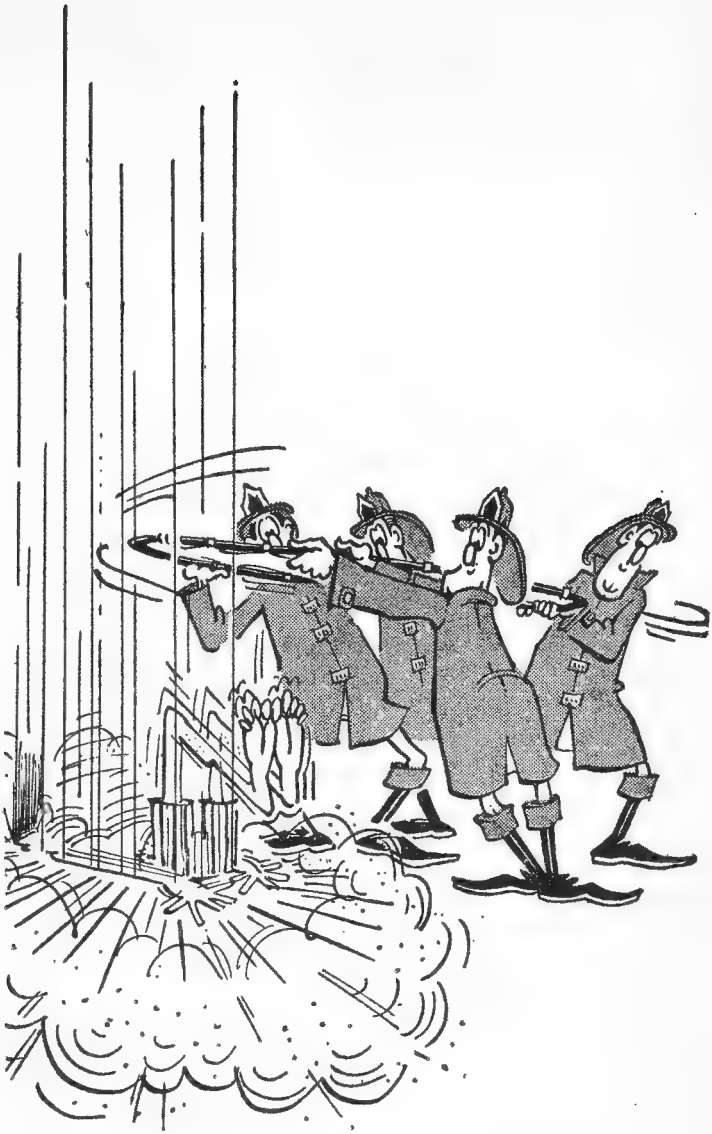


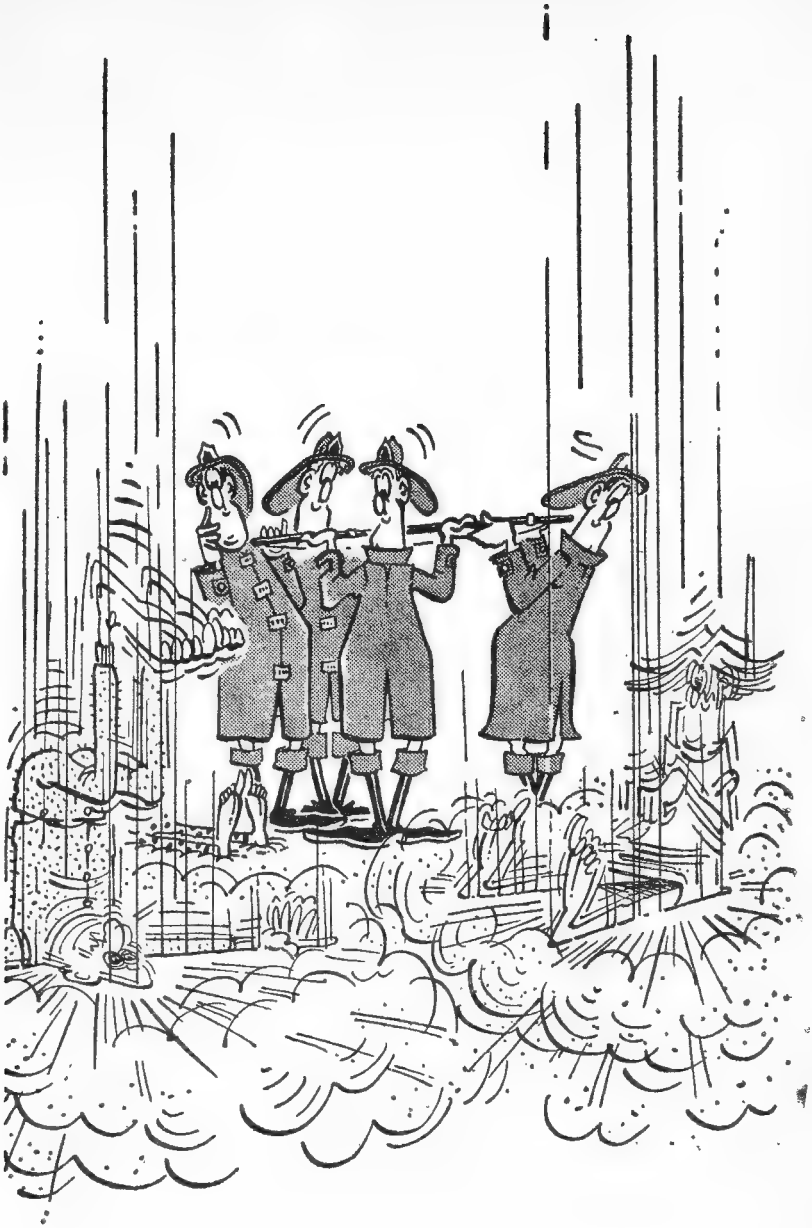
We wish to thank Mrs. Otis P. Frimp of 2213 Glen Ave. Queens for being our good sport for today. Thank you, Mrs. Frimp, and **good luck.**

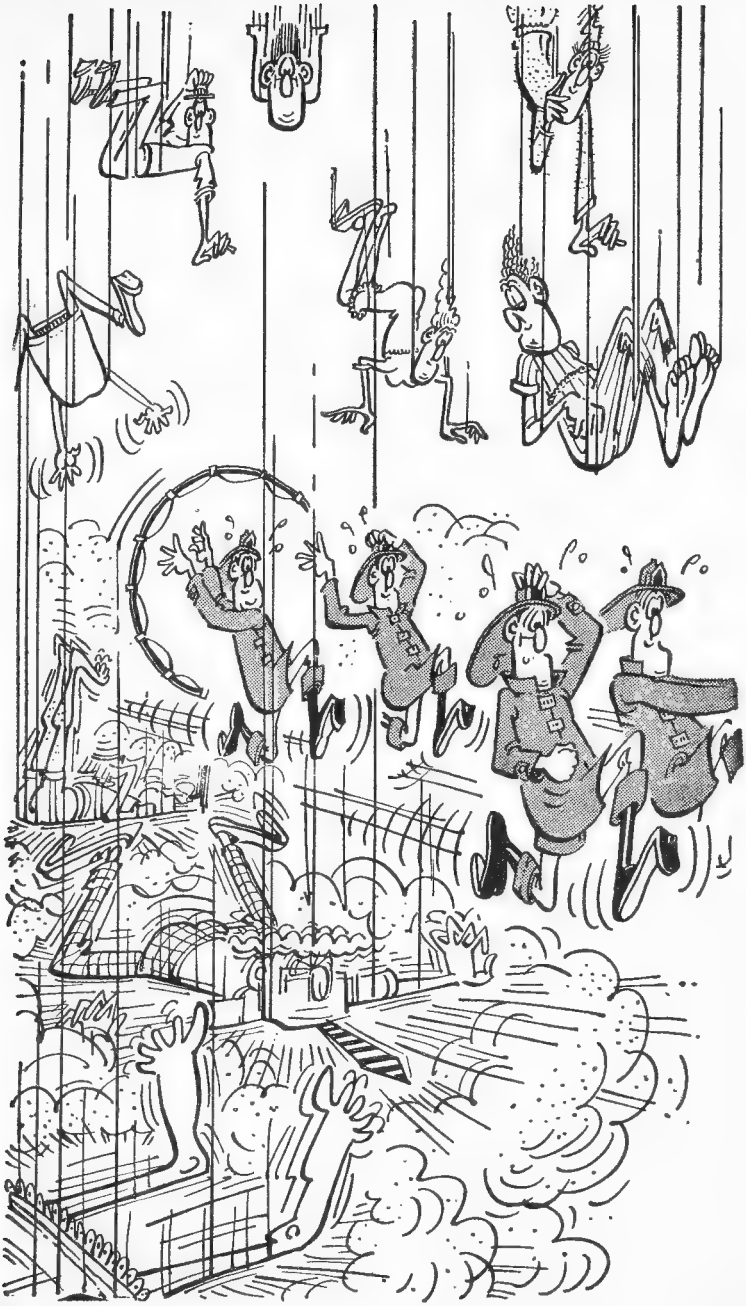


# THE GREAT HOTEL FIRE









# THOSE NASTY LITTLE HAIRS

PINK

DINK

POINK

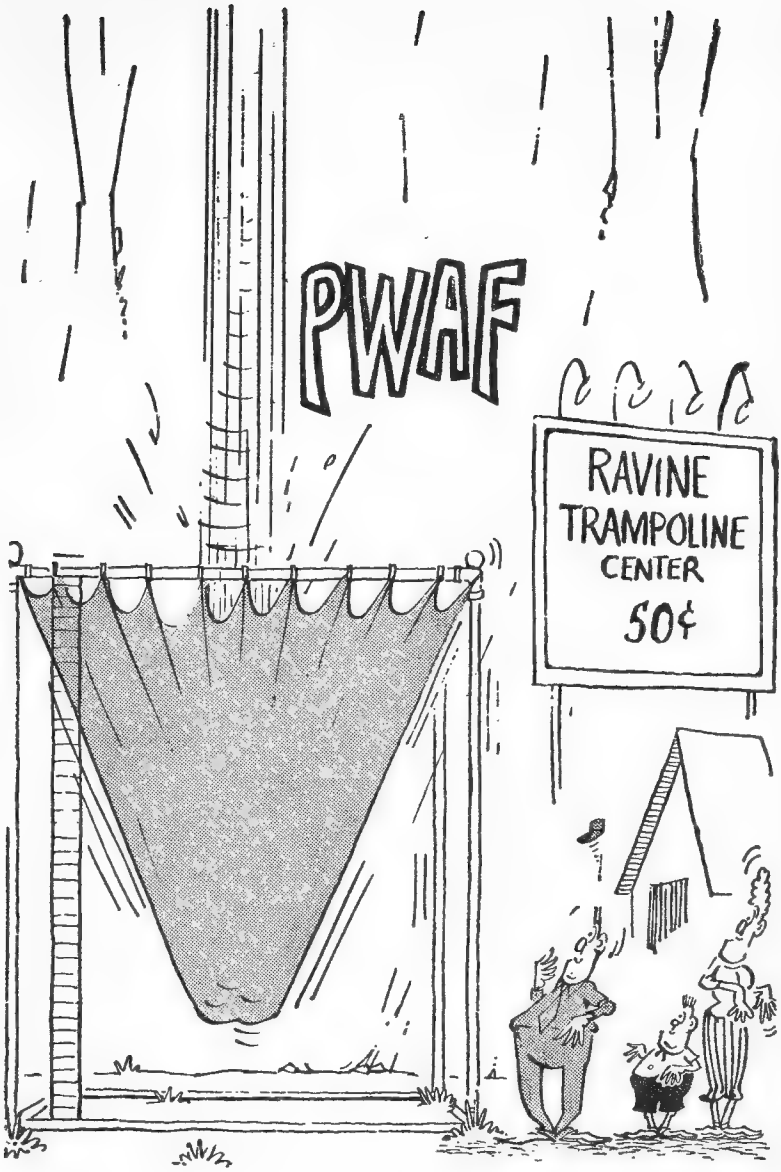
CLATTER

# A JOHN AND MARSHA STORY

But . . . .

John! John! Wait, John!!
You forgot your glasses!!

That wasn't me you were talking to, John . . . . . I'M Marsha!!!


PWAF
RAVINE
TRAMPOLINE
CENTER
50¢

POING
RAVINE
TRAMPOLINE
CENTER
50¢

John!

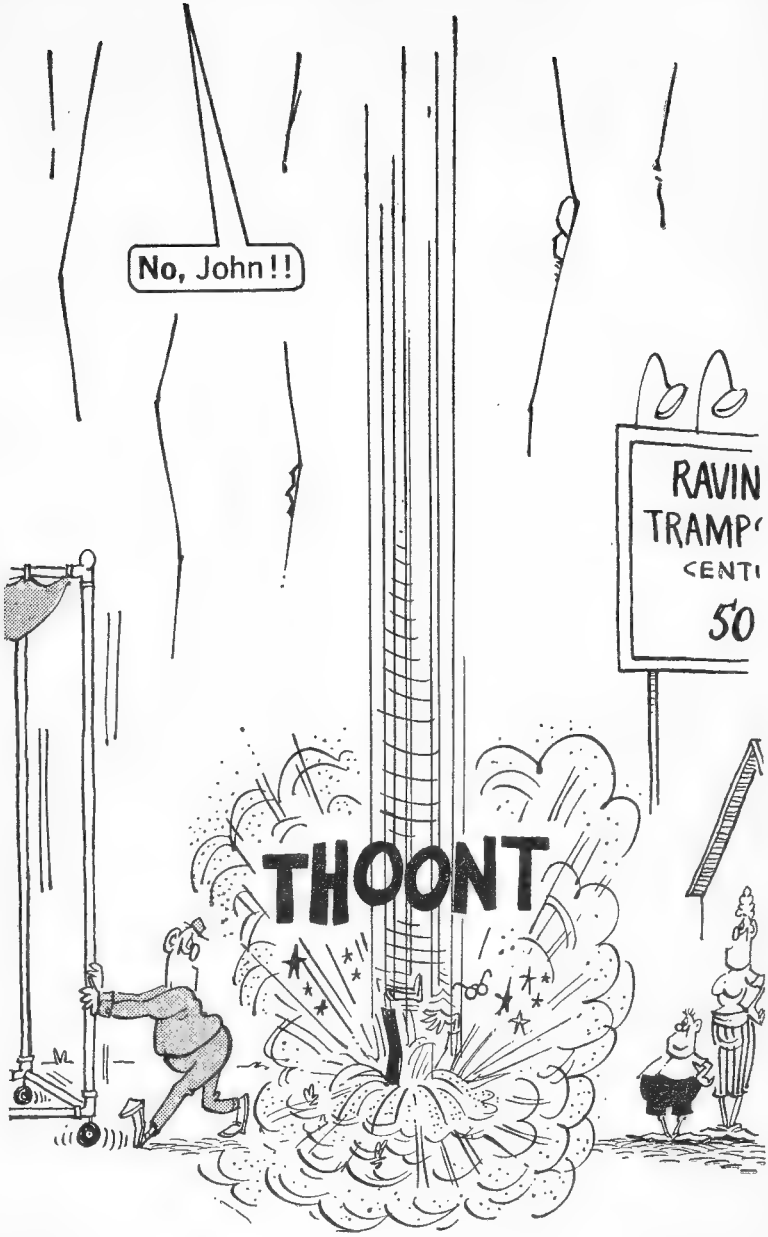
Marsha!

John!!

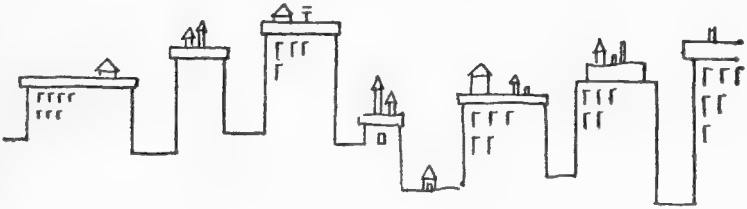
Oh, Marsha!

Oh, John!!

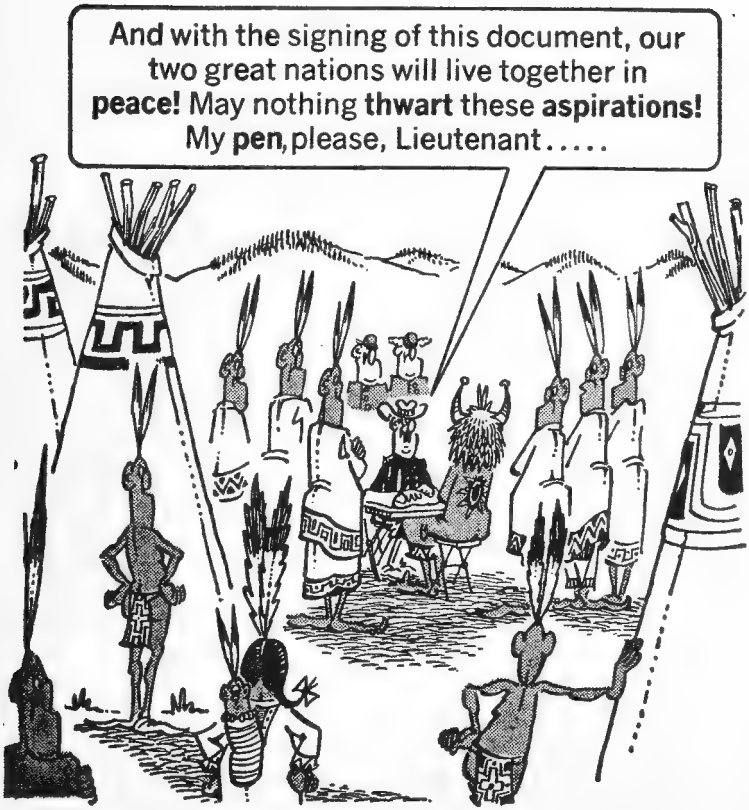
Will you marry me, Marsha?


No, John!!
RAVIN
TRAMP
CENT
50
THOONT

# ONE FINE DAY



# THE GREAT INDIAN TREATY



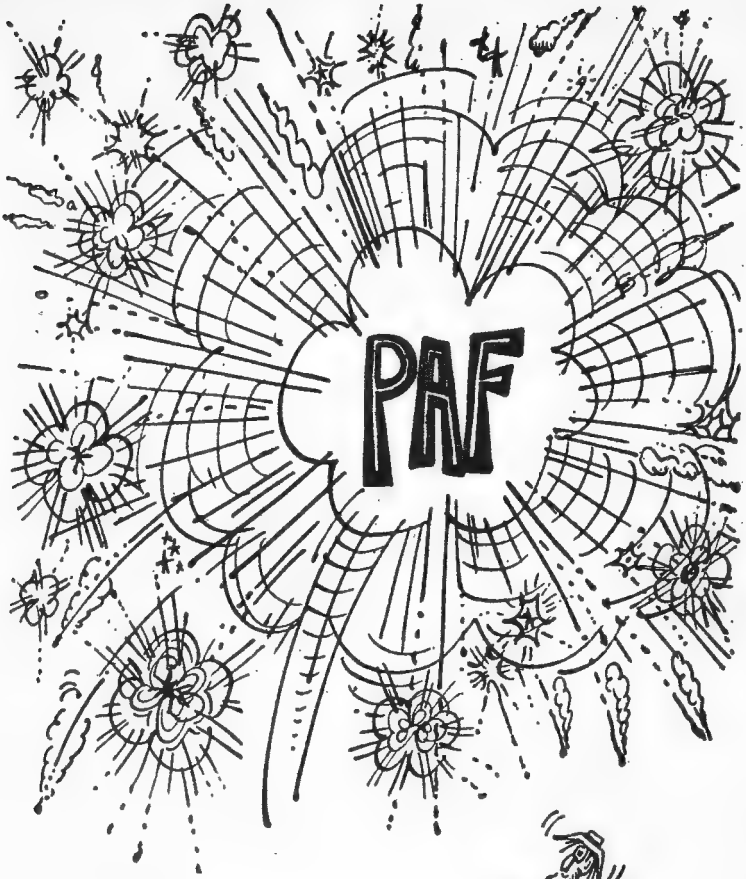
This is **indeed** an historic moment!
POINK

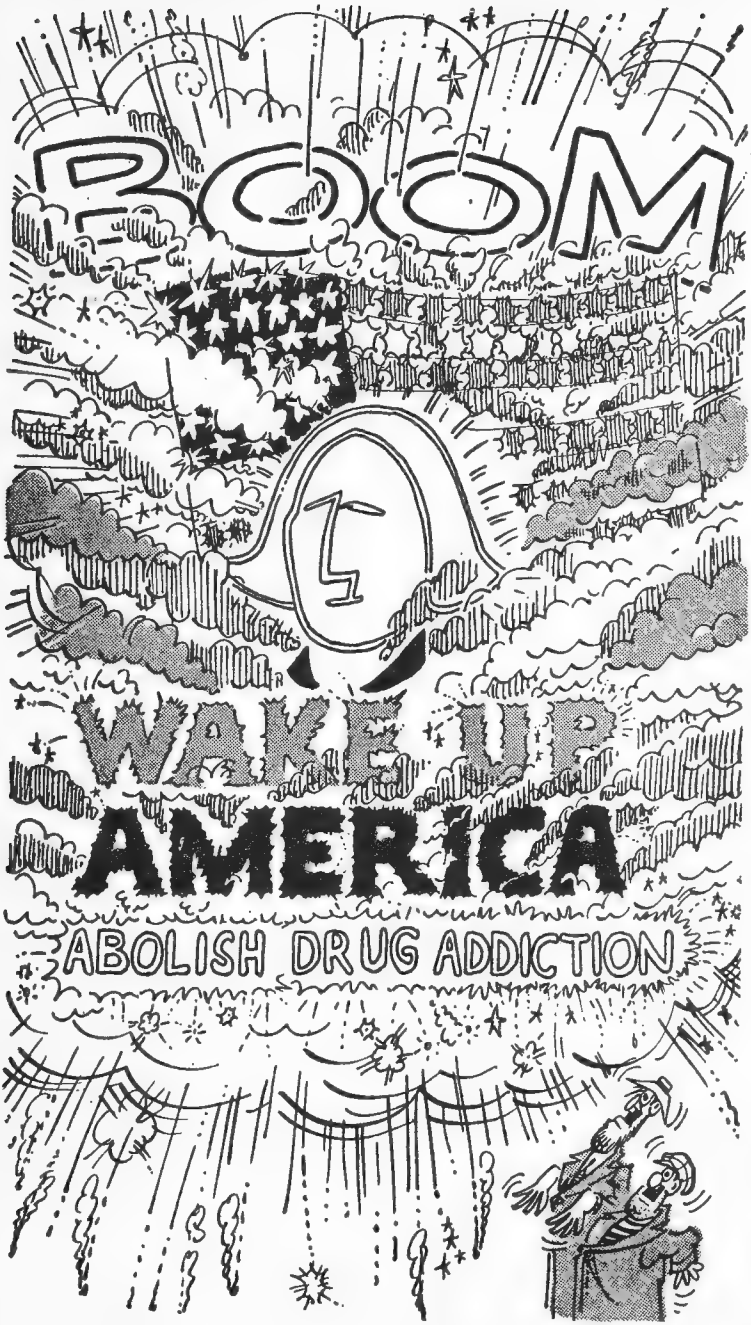
# A SKID ROW STORY

GLUKLUKLUKLUK

-ONT

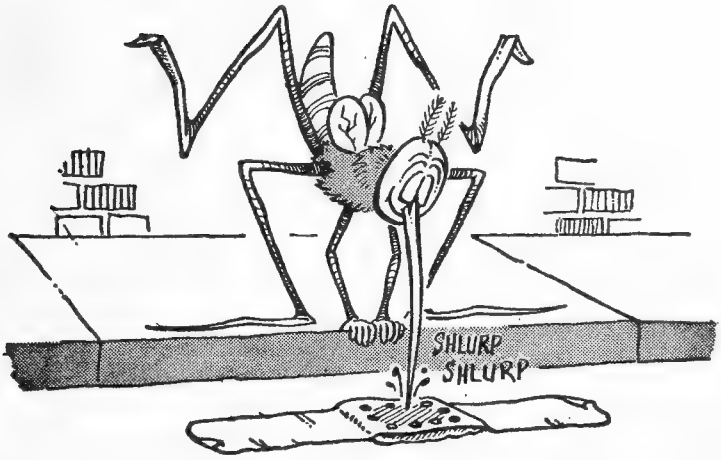
FOW


PAF

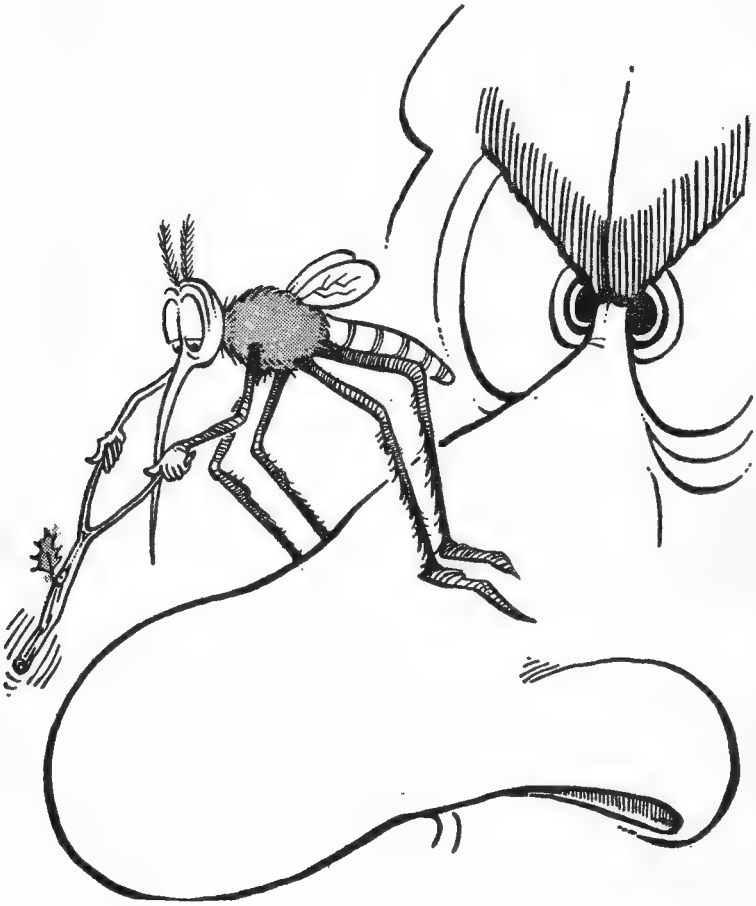

BOOM
WAKE UP
AMERICA
ABOLISH DRUG ADDICTION

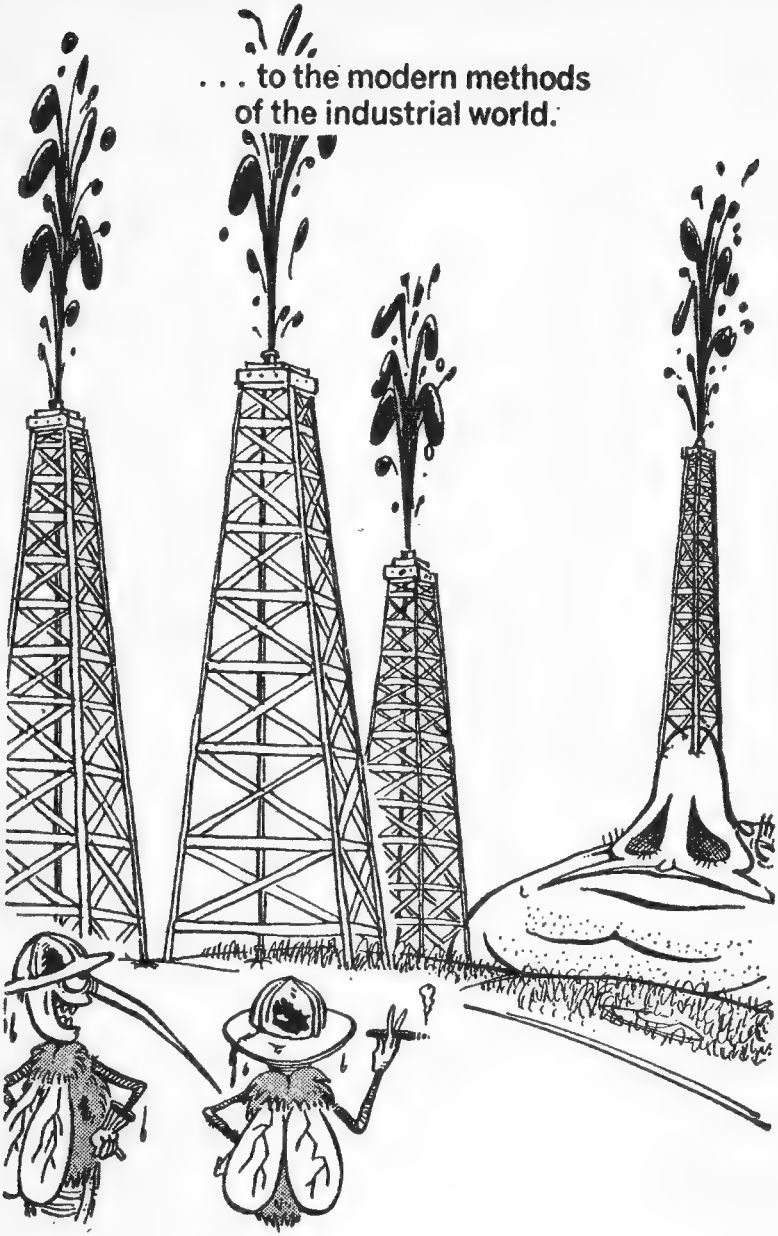
# MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes, as everyone knows, drink blood. They have also been known to suck the juices from the skins of fruit, like apples for example . . . but mostly they are crazy for blood.



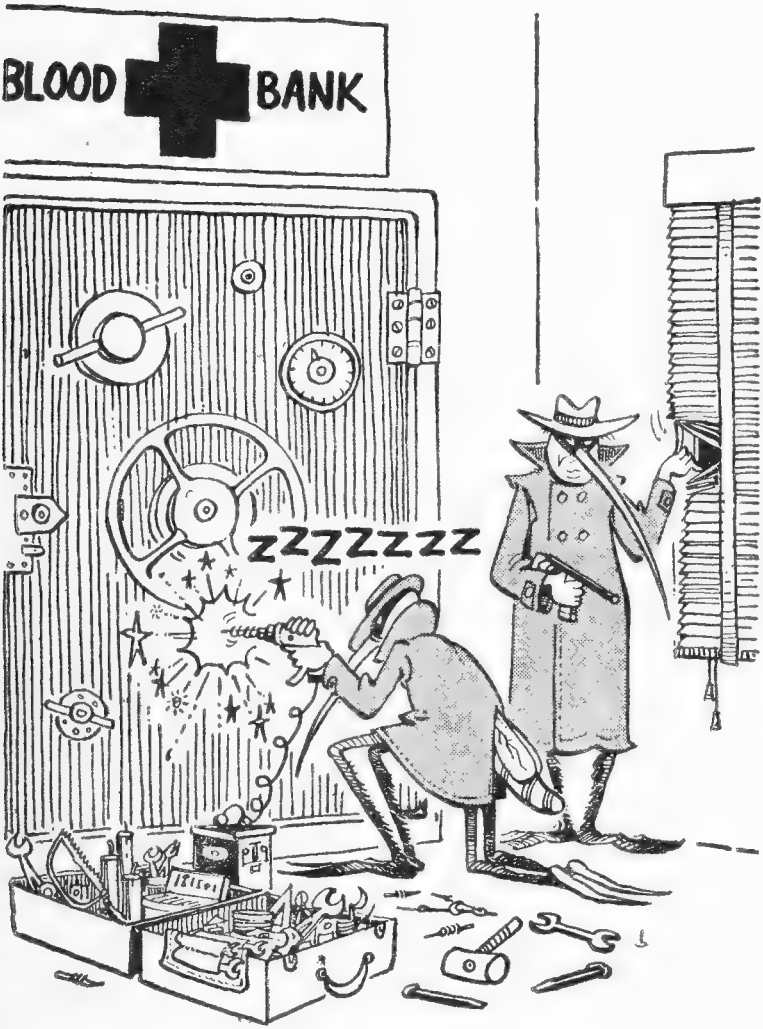
The mosquito's methods for finding and acquiring blood vary greatly. From the old-time methods of his pioneer forefathers . . .



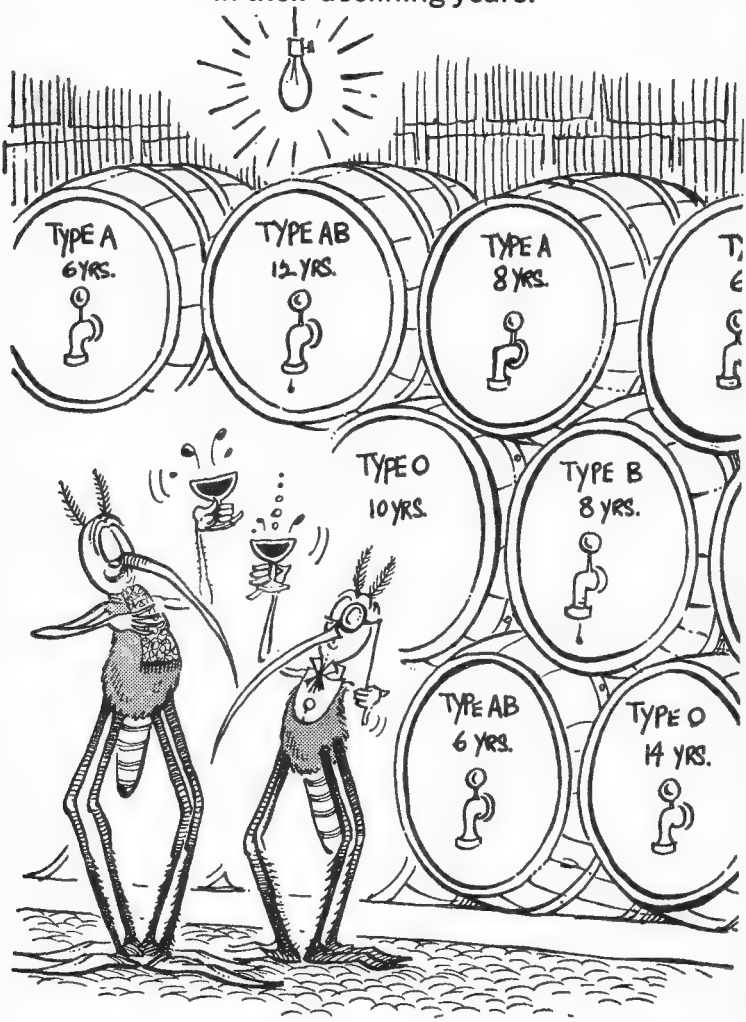

. . . to the modern methods
of the industrial world.

Mosquitoes are sometimes ingenious in their ways. Even the human condition of "Hardened Arteries" will not deter an enterprising mosquito.

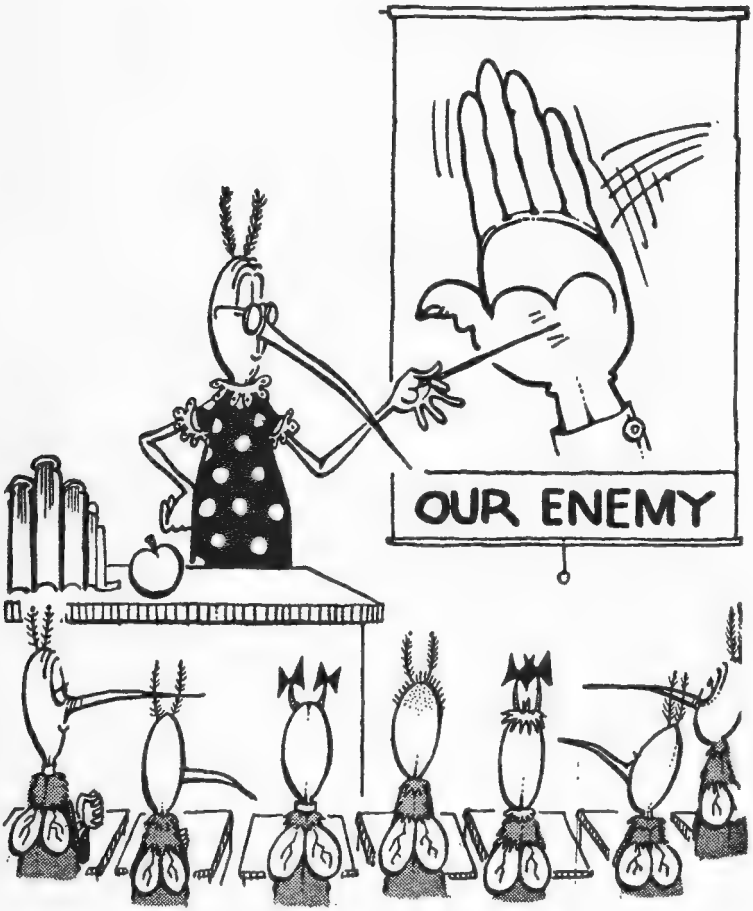
There are some mosquitoes, for example, who will take the ways of crime . . .



. . . and there are other mosquitoes who will work hard when they are young in order to be able to afford elegant hobbies in their declining years.



Mosquitoes attend schools while young, where they are firmly indoctrinated into their adult life and the menace that will confront them.

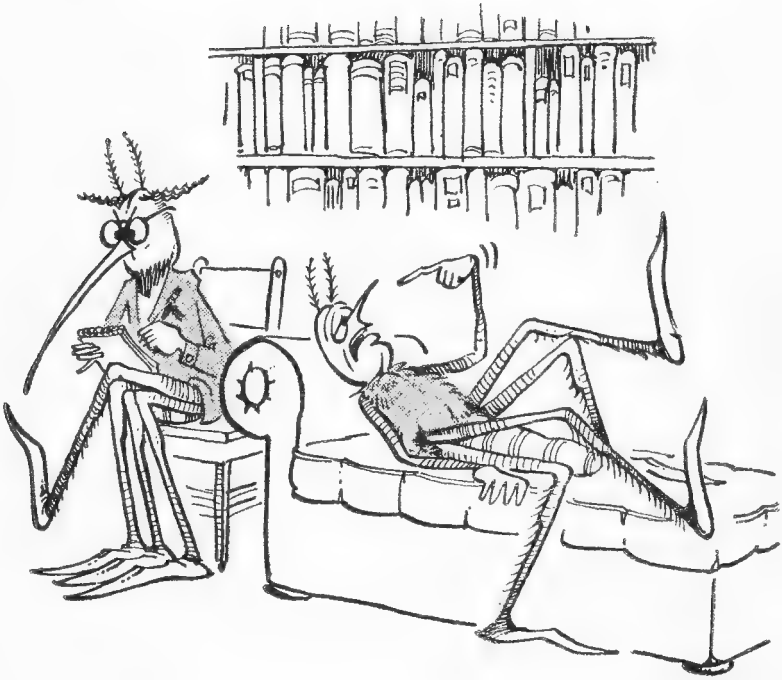


It is in these schools that the mosquito begins to acquire his strong sense of loyalty and national unity

1

2
MMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

Mosquitoes are extremely nervous, and many have been known to suffer greatly from feelings of inadequacy.

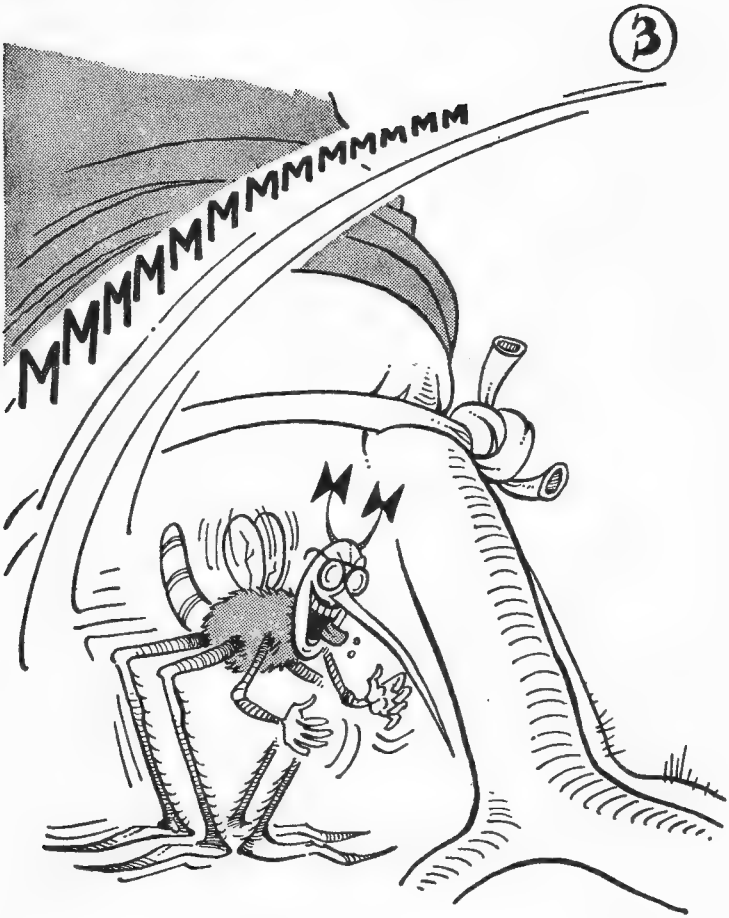


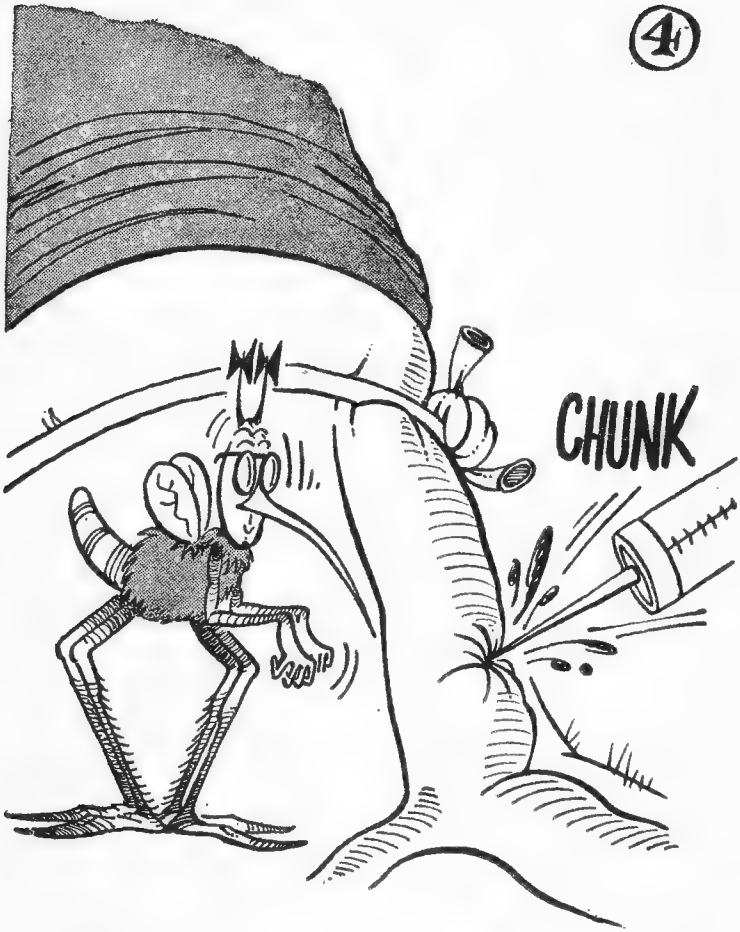
Mating season for the mosquito is in the Spring, when young love can be seen budding everywhere.

The mosquito world is rich in folklore, and one of its favorite stories is the one about the nearsighted maiden who wandered into a human doctor's office one day . . .

1

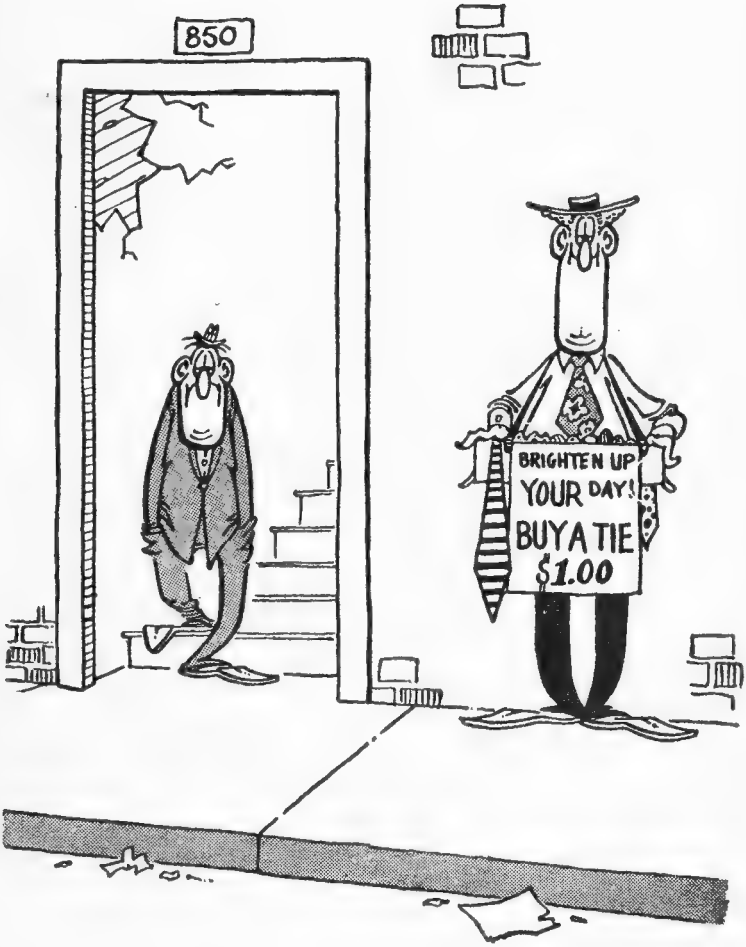
MMMMMM


3
MMMMMMMMMMMMMM


4
CHUNK

WOW!!!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

# A BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE


850
BRIGHTEN UP
YOUR DAY!
BUY A TIE
$1.00

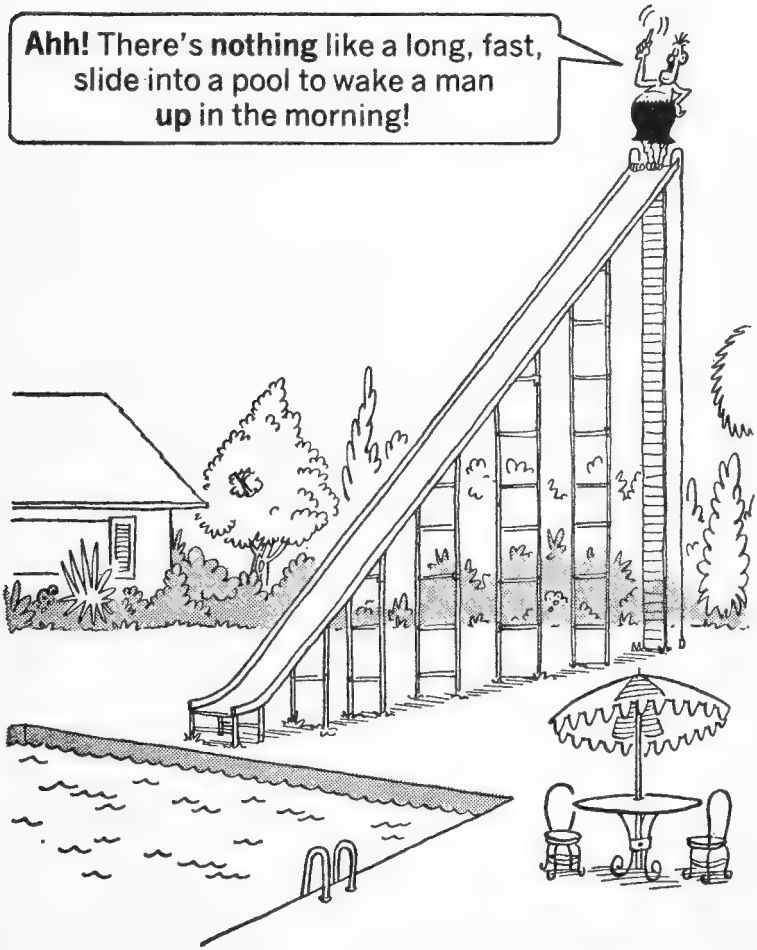
BRIGHTEN UP
YOUR DAY!
BUY A TIE
$1.00

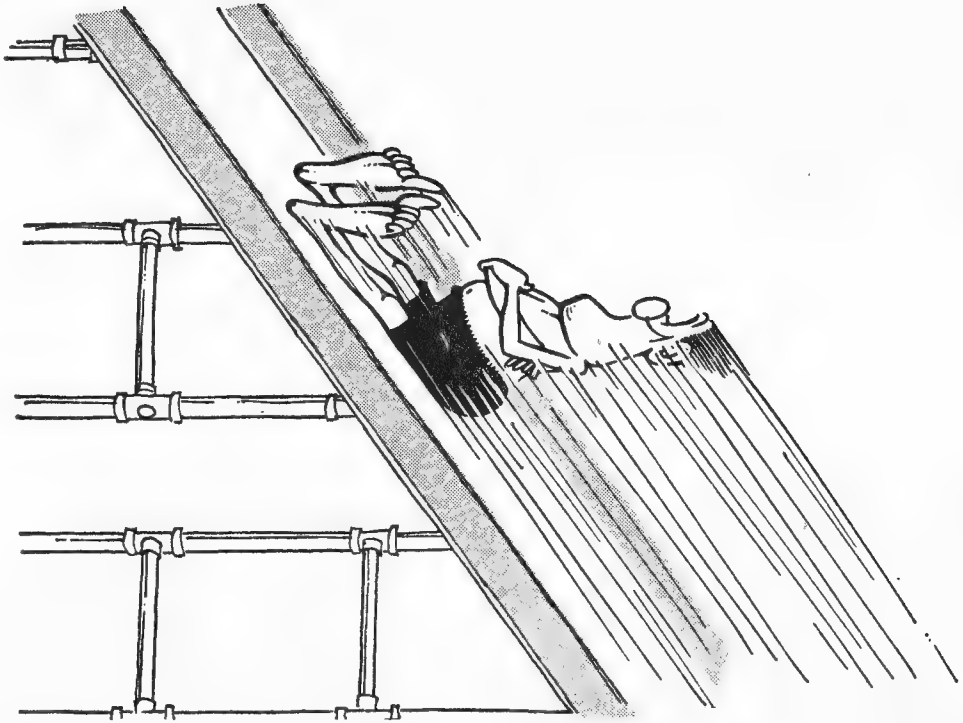
BRIGHTEN UP
YOUR DAY!
BUY A TIE
$1.00

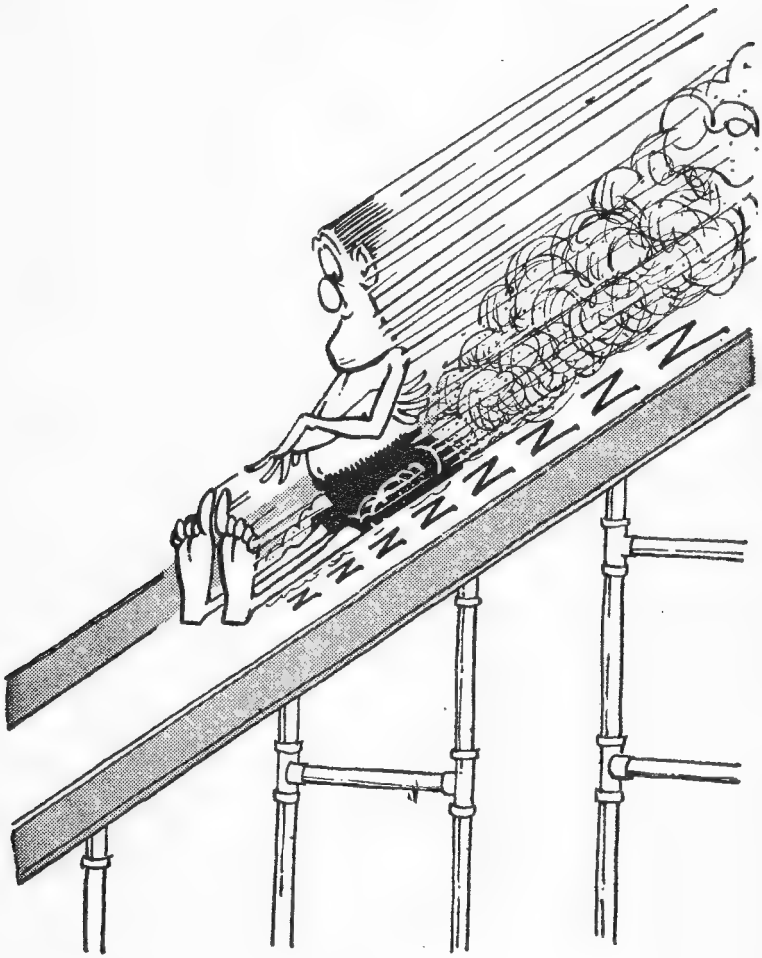
BRIGHTEN UP
YOUR DAY!
BUY A TIE
$1.00

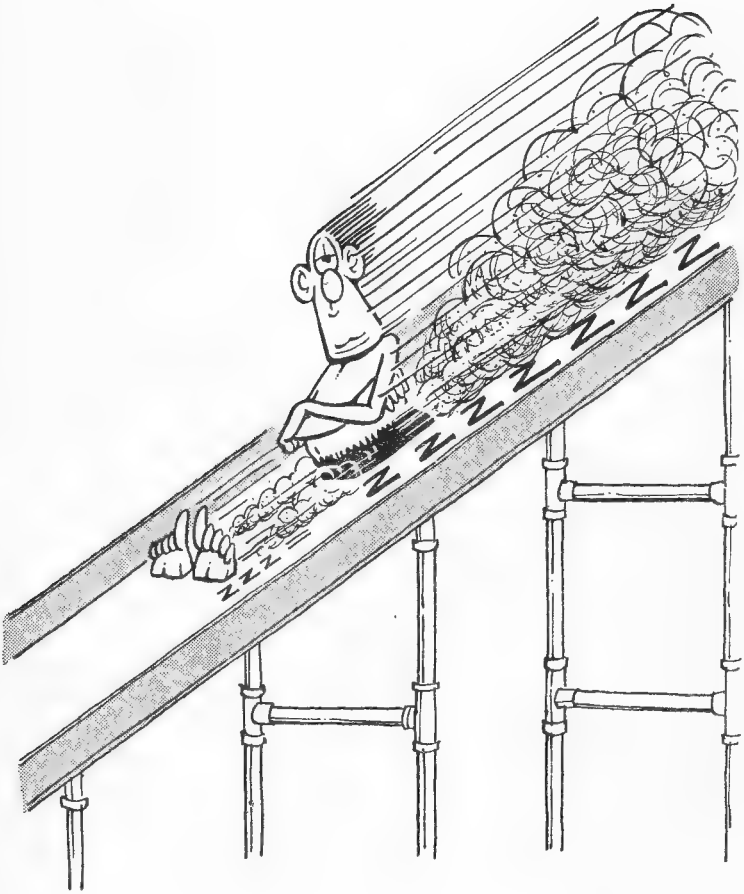
850
BRIGHTEN UP
YOUR DAY!
BUY A TIE
$1.00

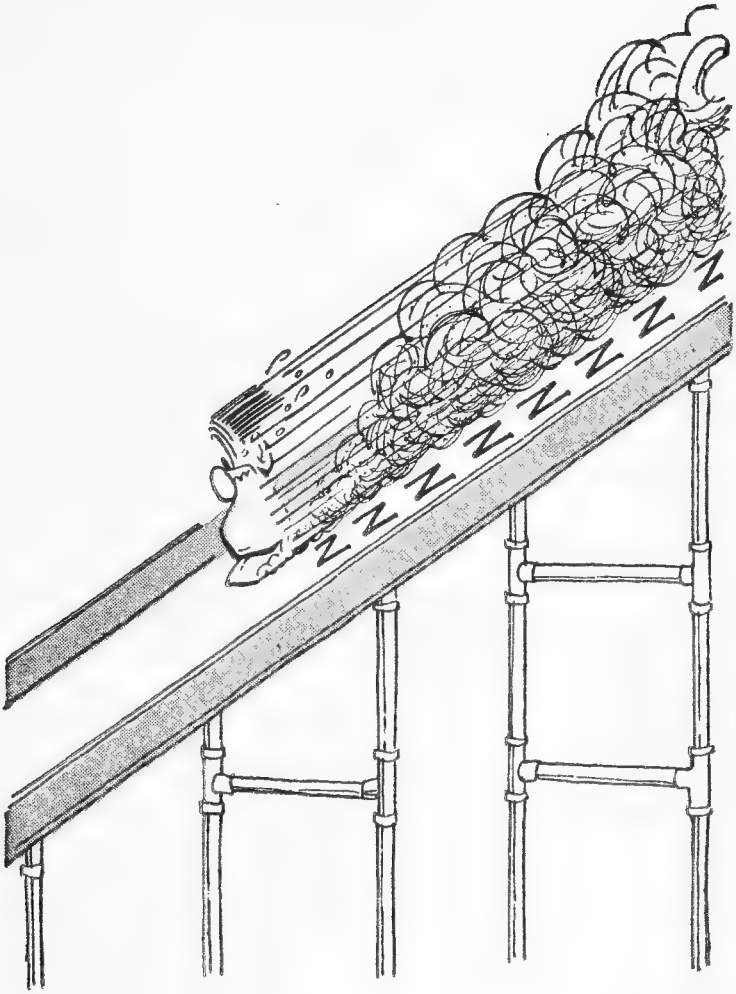
# AN EARLY MORNING DIP

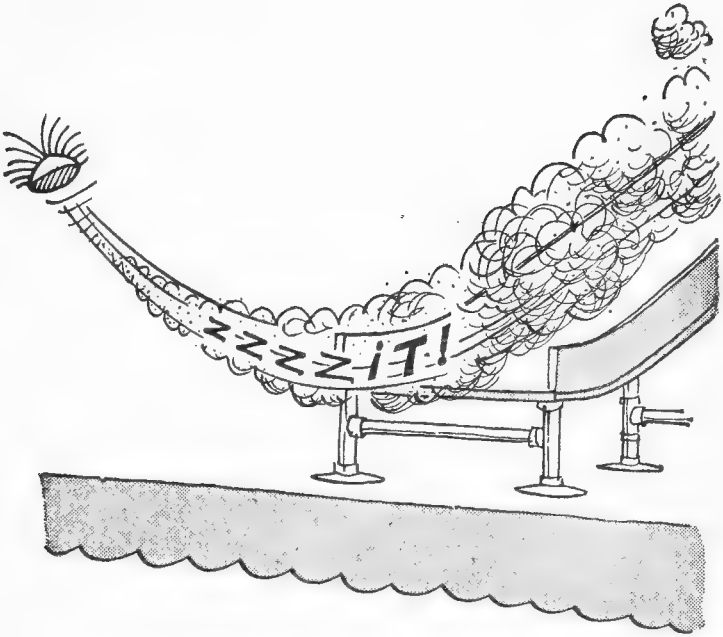




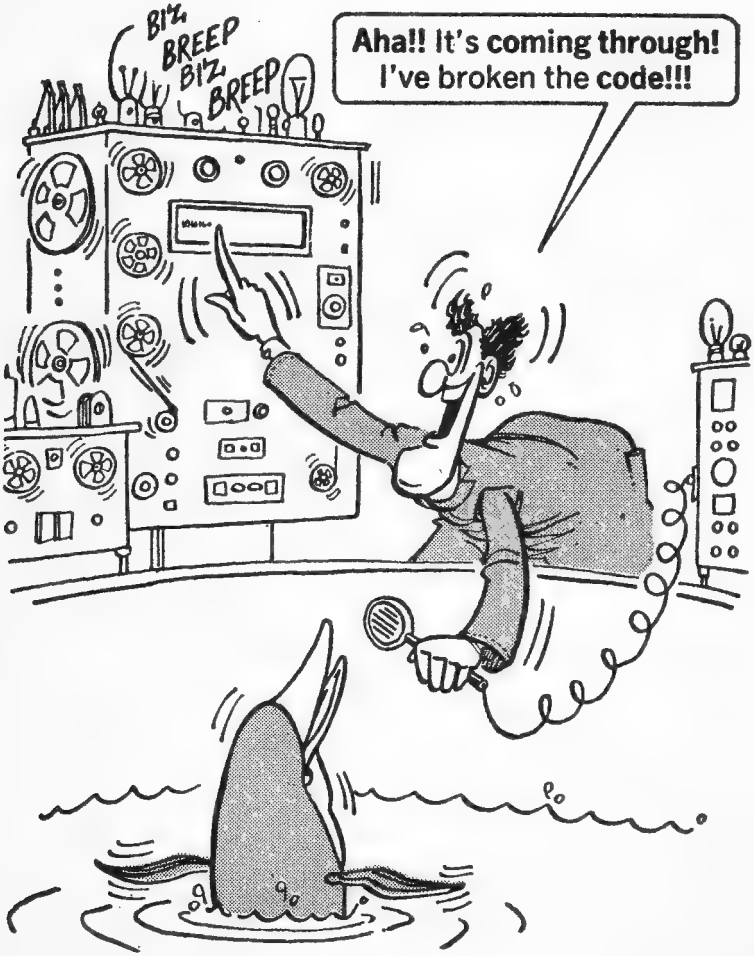


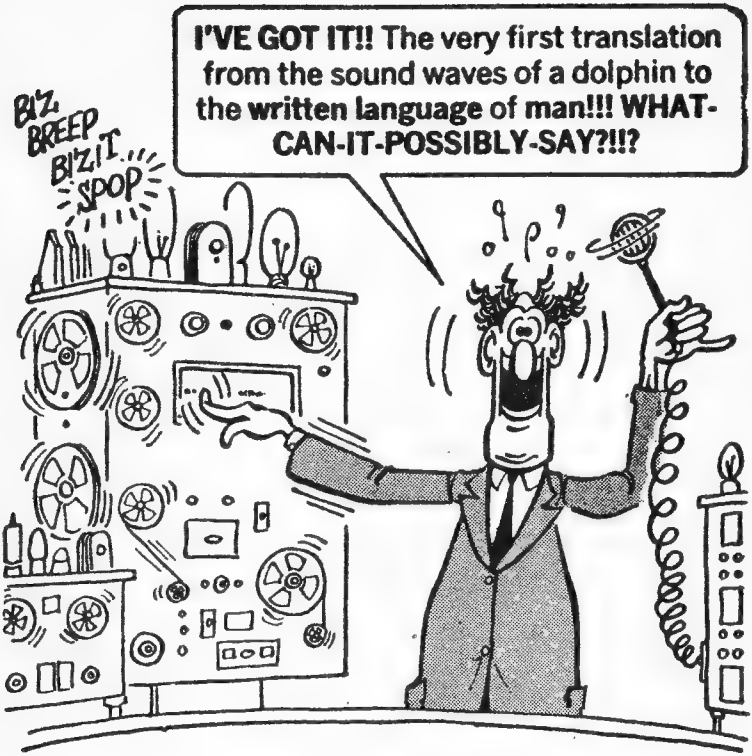


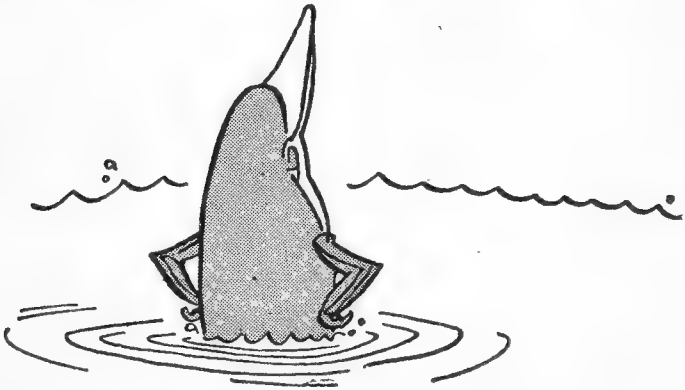


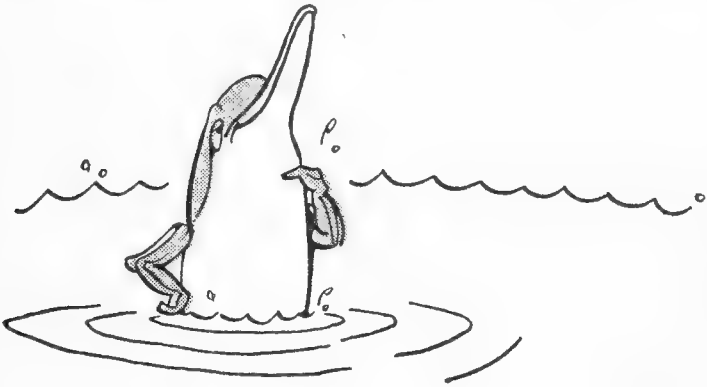

ZZZZIT!

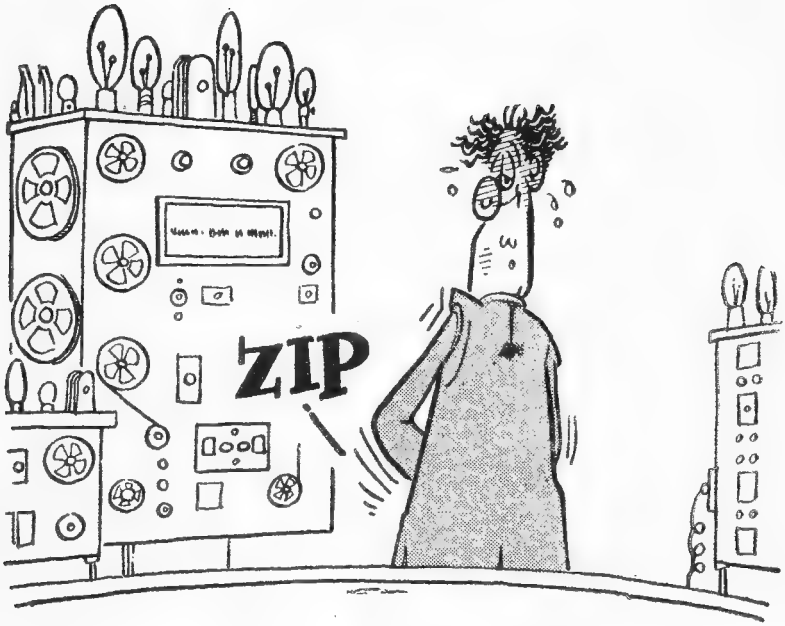
# MAN'S COMMUNICATION WITH A DOLPHIN




I'VE GOT IT!! The very first translation from the sound waves of a dolphin to the written language of man!!! WHAT-CAN-IT-POSSIBLY-SAY?!!?
BIZ BREEP BIZ IT SPOP






ZIP

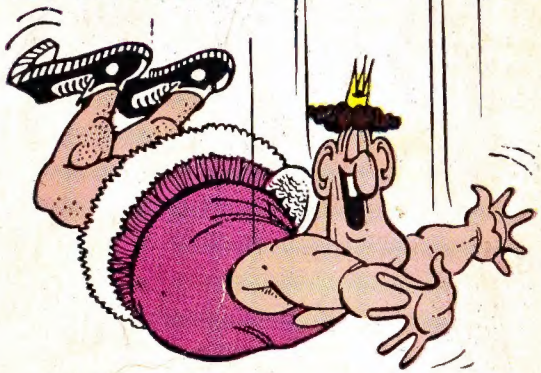
# THE HAIR

THIS IS THE
LONGEST HAIR
IN THE WORLD

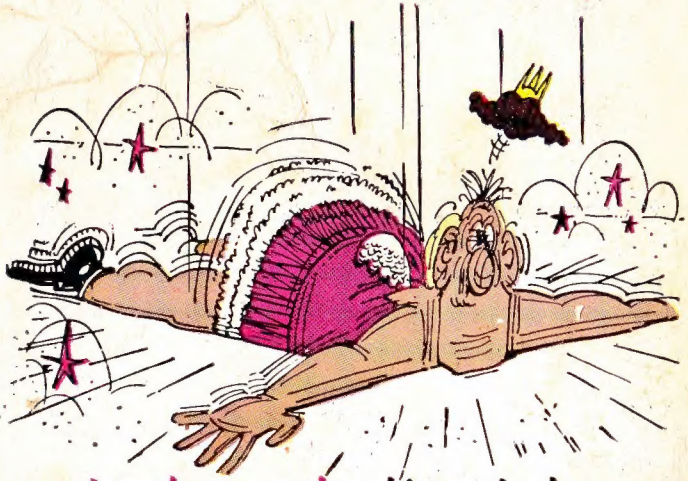
With this third book of original cartoons,

# Don Martin

*Drops 13 stories...*



*...bounces off your funnybone...*



*...and makes another big splash on*

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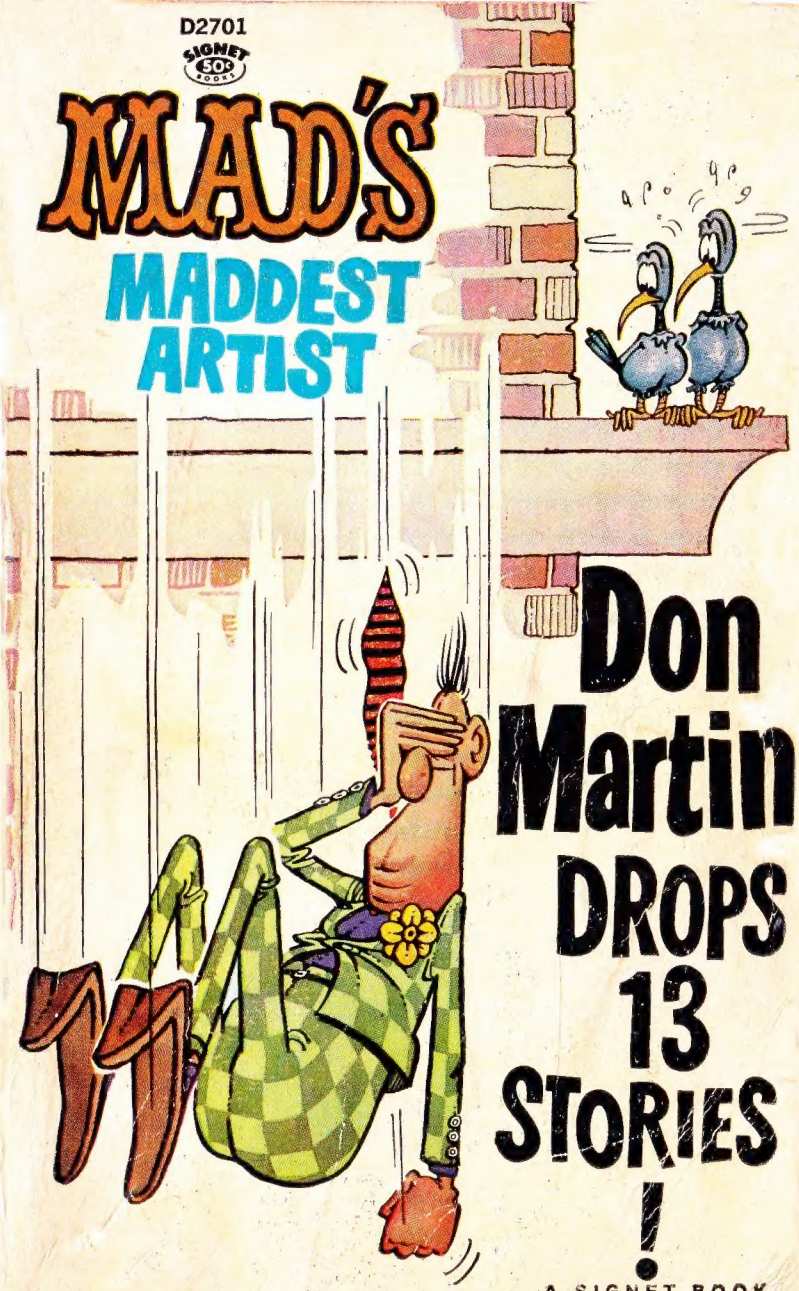

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